



## GOLDEN TATE'S COMMITMENT TO AMERICAN MILITARY HEROES

BY DYLAN REFFE

**O**ff the field, Golden Tate is known as a quiet person. The Detroit Lions wide receiver chooses to let his actions speak louder than words.

Tate and his fiancée, Elise Pollard, established the Golden Future Foundation in 2014, which works to enhance the lives of American heroes and their families.

"We just wanted to do our part, use the platform that we have to give back, specifically to the men and women who serve our country and also to their families," Tate said. "Without them, we wouldn't be here."

Earlier this year, Tate and Houston Texans linebacker Brian Cushing visited more than 1,000 service members and military families based in Germany and Kuwait as part of a six-day USO/NFL tour.

"I had a blast just spending time with the men and women," Tate said. "The one thing I noticed from each of them was that they felt like it was an honor to be representing our country and fighting for our country."

Since its establishment, through a series of charity events and drives, the Golden Future Foundation has worked to raise awareness and provide resources for military service members.

In 2015, Tate and Pollard hosted a charity bowling event, participated in a holiday shopping experience for children whose military parents would not be home for Christmas and partnered with Pierce Elementary School in Birmingham to put on a winter coat drive.

"Pierce Elementary exceeded our expectations," Tate said. "We were assuming we'd get about 200 or 300 coats to give out, which would have helped a lot of people, but we ended up getting 2,000 coats. It was awesome, we really appreciate the support we got from them."

One of Tate's favorite moments working with the military came last year before a game against the San Francisco 49ers.

"The diamond company, Ritani, sponsored a wedding ring for this military couple to get engaged," Tate said. "They did it right before the game. They were on the field and we had some of my teammates hold up signs, asking the question. Just a super great moment."

So great a moment that Tate and Pollard were excited to include something similar in their foundation's Stars and Strikes bowling event last fall.

Nick Wegner, a five year U.S. Army service member who had two combat deployments to Iraq, proposed to his girlfriend, now fiancée, Leann, thanks to The Golden Future Foundation and Ritani. Wegner proposed with a beautiful engagement ring with the help of Tate's teammates, who held up signs that asked, "Will you marry me?"

The second annual Stars and Strikes event is scheduled for Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. at Lucky Strike in Novi. Proceeds will benefit the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

"I received a lot of support from my teammates last year and we're looking forward to hopefully raising more money to give to our Michigan military groups," Tate said. "Last year was the first year, it was awesome, but we've thought of some ways to make it better so we're very excited about this year."

When asked about the event's new features, Tate played coy. "You have to show up," the wide receiver said with a big grin. "It's going to be awesome."

While the event is for charity, the left-handed bowler has no intention of giving away a win.

"I'm competitive," Tate said. "I'll step up."

*You can learn more about the Stars and Strikes event and get involved with the Golden Future Foundation by visiting <http://www.goldentate.com/foundation/> or by following the foundation's Instagram account @goldenfuturefdn.*

"I THINK THE TIE  
MAKES THE SUIT"

*Golden Tate 15*

#### **GOLDEN'S STYLE**

Suits with tapered bottoms and doesn't shy away from color, or browns and blues accented by a pop of color

#### **FAVORITE WAY TO ACCESSORIZE AN OUTFIT**

Socks and a loud, poppy bowtie

#### **FAVORITE PAIR OF SHOES**

Air Jordan 4's

#### **FUN OFF THE FIELD**

Golf and fishing

#### **WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR?**

"On Thanksgiving Day I'm just thankful for a lot, but specifically thankful for the freedoms that we have in this country. I'm thankful for the family that I have around me, everyone who kind of shaped who I am today."

**GOLDEN TATE / WR / 15 / NOTRE DAME**

