

Pizarro: Veterans invited to take part in 408K race's 'Memorial Mile'

By Sal Pizarro

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Remember that fantastic moment at the 408K Race to the Row last year when World War II veteran Joe Bell greeted runners in uniform as they passed by his house in San Jose? My colleague, Julia Prodis Sulek, captured it on a video that quickly went viral.

Sadly, Bell passed away in January at age 95, but the 408K run is paying tribute to him on Sunday with its Memorial Mile. The organizers of the 8-kilometer run from downtown San Jose to Santana Row are inviting veterans and active military members to line Emory Street during the run and cheer on runners the way Bell did.

Interested veterans can meet at the Flames Restaurant on Winchester Boulevard at 7 a.m. Sunday, in uniform or whatever military gear they prefer. They'll be taken by bus to the cheering spot and taken back after the race (coffee, snacks and water will be provided, naturally). Veterans who prefer to make it to the Memorial Mile on their own can meet the group at Emory and Garden Drive at 7:30 a.m.

If you've got questions, email info@the408k.com or call 408-213-9563. More information on the race is available at www.the408k.com.

BIG TICKET: You've got to think one of the hottest tickets next year will be to Super Bowl 50 at Levi's Stadium, right? Well, attendees at this Sunday's Taste of Champions event being held at the 49ers' home in Santa Clara will get a chance to bid on a pair of tickets to the big game during the event's auction.

That's not all that will be going on at the 2 to 5 p.m. event, which will feature gourmet food from Levi's Stadium Chef Santana Diaz and entertainment by Grammy-winner Tony Lindsay in the Yahoo Fantasy Football Lounge. The invited guest list includes 49ers greats Joe Montana, Jesse Sapolu, and Keena Turner, as well as former A's and Giants pitcher Vida Blue, Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi and her husband, former NHL star Bret Hedican.

The whole thing is a benefit for Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, which was important to the guy behind the event, former 49er Eric Wright.

"I have made it a personal mission to give back to the community that has given so much to me," Wright said.

Tickets are available for \$149 at <http://tasteofchampions.eventbrite.com>.