

Ex-Broncos star Peyton Manning passes praise to many upon induction into Pro Football Hall of Fame



Peyton Manning (L) unveils his bust with his father Archie Manning (R) during the NFL Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony at Tom Benson Hall Of Fame Stadium on Aug. 08, 2021, in Canton, Ohio.

Sean Keeler
Peyton Manning applauded his past and his past ap-

plauded back. Archie Manning holding a microphone: Peyton Man-

AG Lynn Fitch Seeks Better Protection for Consumers from Illegal Robocalls

Attorney General Lynn Fitch joined a bipartisan coalition of 51 Attorneys General urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to accelerate the implementation of caller

ID technology meant to protect consumers from illegal robocalls.

"The flood of robocalls is disruptive to our daily lives and is often used to perpetrate scams," said Attorney General Fitch. "The TRACED Act, and the STIR/SHAKEN technology that it required, are meant to put an end to illegal robocalls and caller ID spoofing that bad actors use to harm consum-

ers. I urge the FCC to rein in the companies that are acting in bad faith to spam families, facilitate fraud, and evade detection."

STIR/SHAKEN technology is an essential tool to help consumers feel confident about who is on the other end of a line when they choose to answer a call. Large voice service providers were required to implement it by June 30, 2021; but small companies, with 100,000 subscribers or less, were given a two-year extension by the FCC.

New evidence indicates that a subset of these smaller companies is responsible

ning (L) unveils his bust with his father Archie Manning (R) during the NFL Hall

for a high volume of illegal robocall traffic, using the extension to continue to route the calls that STIR/SHAKEN will help reduce or eliminate. In their comment letter submitted today, General Fitch and the other 50 Attorneys General ask the FCC to move up the deadline for implementation of this anti-spoofing technology for those who are demonstrated bad actors.

"The FCC was right to mitigate hardship with an extension for the small providers that many Americans rely on for phone services," continued Fitch. "But the companies acting in bad faith shouldn't be rewarded for their bad behavior. They need to be held accountable and eliminating this free pass is a good start."

"Our biggest challenge in the health care system is not beds, but staffing," he said.

The emergency order also allows local school boards to provide paid leave to teachers and other staff for issues related to the pandemic. State agencies are given the same authority through the state of emergency order.

When the governor was asked by WLOX about his recent social media post complaining about the "angry rhetoric" from many who were questioning his leadership of the crisis, he said, "I really don't think it alienates people."

He added, "In times of an emergency, we have to remain calm... and make sure our leaders are making good quality decisions."

Reeves has refused to

impose a statewide mask mandate for public schools even as the number of cases among students has surged. He said he believes local school boards are in the best position to make those decisions.

Reeves said the coronavirus was turning "into a pandemic of the unvaccinated" and expressed optimism that the number of Mississippians getting the shot is on the uptick. Throughout the process Mississippi has been among the lowest vaccinated states in the nation and Reeves has been criticized for not taking a strong enough stand on the importance of the vaccination.

The Mississippi State Department of Health reported 4,412 new cases Thursday — by far the highest number of cases for a single day.

of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony at Tom Benson Hall Of Fame Stadium on Aug. 08, 2021, in Canton, Ohio. © Provided by Denver Post Peyton Manning (L) unveils his bust with his father Archie Manning (R) during the NFL Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony at Tom Benson Hall Of Fame Stadium on Aug. 08, 2021, in Canton, Ohio.

But it was the comments of the former Broncos quarterback and 2021 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee had about his future that had Denver fans buzzing Sunday evening.

"I don't know about you, but I'm not done with this game," Manning said during the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies in Canton, Ohio. "I never will be. I'm committed to ensuring its future."

Manning, who led the Broncos to a pair of Super Bowls and one championship, didn't elaborate.

During his 9-minute speech, during which he bounced coolly from the funny to the poignant to the dry to the emotional, Manning reminded fans and peers why he was — and is — one of football's strongest ambassadors. And why he remains one of the Front Range's most popular figures since his retirement five years ago.

"It's about nurturing football to thrive another day, another year, another decade and another generation," Manning said while referencing his own family and the one he grew up in New Orleans while his father Archie quarterbacked the Saints.

Manning, who joined former Broncos safety John Lynch in the Hall's 2021 class, spoke from the heart and with complete comfort before family, ex-teammates, fans and NFL royalty. The crowd included dozens of current and ex-Broncos, as well as coaches from the present and the past (Mike Shanahan, Gary Kubiak).

No. 18 came out firing as the third inductee to speak, razzing new Hall of Fame peers — and old rivals — one more time.

"Ray Lewis just finished the speech that he started in 2018," Manning said with a knowing smirk, referencing the 33-minute presentation the legendary linebacker gave in August 2018.

Then it was Tom Brady's turn.

"My good friend Tom Brady is here tonight," Manning cracked. "By the time he is inducted, in his first year of eligibility in the year of 2035, he'll only have time to post his acceptance speech on his Instagram account."

Ever cool, Manning kept his direct, level head throughout his presentation, save for one moment, when he appeared to choke up while thanking his father and presenter, Archie.

Lynch, meanwhile, stressed that he would not "be here today" without his wife Linda, who wrote him a note before every game as a player and as a broadcaster.

In addition to thanking his family, mentors, coaches and former teammates, Lynch gave a special shoutout to Bill Walsh, who'd coached him at Stanford and persuaded him to concentrate on football over baseball, and told him in college that he could "be a Pro Bowl safety in the NFL."

Lynch said Walsh later showed him film that compared plays he had made with the Cardinal to that of Ronnie Lott, whom Walsh coached with the San Francisco 49ers.

"There were only five plays on that tape," Lynch recalled. "But after watching it, I was all-in."

The newest Hall-of-Famers with Broncos ties have more than a few common threads to bind them. Besides being longtime friends, both NFL legends spent the second act of their pro football careers in the Mile High City.

"Nothing about my (Hall of Fame) journey has been easy," said Lynch, the former safety who was named to the Pro Bowl four times with the Broncos from 2004-07. "I waited eight years as a finalist and then (Hall of Fame president) David Baker tells me I'm following Peyton

Manning (on the program). Thanks a lot, David."

Manning's NFL path hit a crossroads in 2011, a season he sat out while undergoing four surgeries to his neck. On March 20, 2012, the Broncos snapped him up on a five-year, \$96-million deal — a contract that proved among the shrewdest in NFL history.

"To Pat Bowlen and the Bowlen family, and the Denver Broncos organization, you took a chance on me at a crucial moment in my career and I will never forget it," Manning said. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

In the fall of 2013, No. 18 set an NFL record for touchdown passes in a single season (55) and for passing yards (5,477), steering the Broncos to an AFC title and a berth in Super Bowl XLVIII against Seattle. He started Super Bowl 50 against Carolina, completing 13 of 23 passes in a 24-10 Broncos victory, becoming the first NFL quarterback to win a championship with two different franchises.

The physical, cerebral Lynch signed with the Broncos in March 2004 at the age of 32 after 11 seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and anchored some of the best defenses in franchise history.

*Second field

(Continued from page 1.) COVID-19 case record three times. On Wednesday, Dr. Alan Jones, UMMC associate vice chancellor for clinical affairs, said that "failure of the hospital system in Mississippi" would occur within 5-10 days if the rate of hospitalizations did not subside. It has not.

The staffing crisis at UMMC is so dire that the hospital has enlisted the help of second year medical student volunteers to keep the original field hospital operating. The volunteers are not treating patients, but transporting them to and from the field hospital, as well as other upkeep duties like bringing meals and changing bed linens.

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 -Holmes County Herald Staff