

RIISING TO GREATNESS

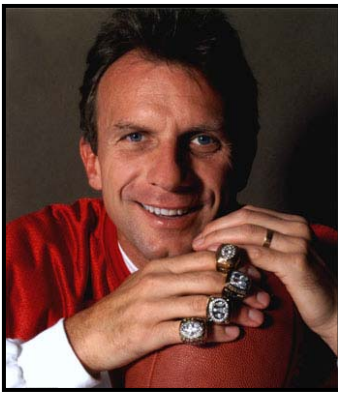
On Tuesday, April 18, 1995, superstar Joe Montana announced his retirement from professional football after 16 seasons.

To salute him, 20,000 residents of San Francisco filled the downtown area for a ceremony in Montana's honor.

Television announcer John Madden came to the podium and gave his opinion of Montana's skills: "This is the greatest quarterback who's ever played the game."

At one point in the ceremonies, when Bill Walsh, Montana's longtime coach at the 49ers, was at the microphone, a fan yelled, "We love you, Joe!"

Walsh knew that had not always been the case. "You weren't saying that in 1979," he replied to the fan. "Then you were saying, 'Where'd you get this guy who looks like a Swedish placekicker?'"



In 1979, Joe Montana was merely a third-round draft pick out of Notre Dame. Scouts said he had a weak arm. He was skinny. He lacked the muscular build of most football players.

But when Joe Montana stepped into the pro ranks, he entered his element. He threw passes with perfect timing. He was the master of the two-minute drill. He went on to win four Super Bowls, helping turn the derelict 49ers into the dominant team of the 1980s.

Joe Montana was at first unimpressive to many people, but was destined to be the greatest.

In an infinite way, those words also describe Jesus Christ. He is the greatest – the Lord of lords.

And He deserves our loyalty and our service.

For those of us in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, we have the opportunity, every day, to fulfill that obligation to Him by the care and the love we provide to God's frail and infirm children entrusted to us.

– Beecher Hunter