



AFLPA MEDIA RELEASE

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AFL Players Association Creates Trust for Los Angeles Avengers' Al Lucas

WASHINGTON, DC – In the wake of the sudden and tragic death of Los Angeles Avengers lineman Al Lucas, Gene Upshaw, Executive Director of the AFLPA, announced today the creation of the “Al Lucas Trust Fund.” The trust will help pay for the education and general living expenses for his surviving child, Mariah.

Many AFL and NFL players have expressed deep concern and grief regarding the unfortunate incident that occurred this week and want to know what assistance they can provide. Therefore, during the 2005 AFL and NFL seasons, the Players Association will solicit support from players for donations to the trust. The AFLPA will make a donation as well.

“We are deeply grieved by the passing of Al. The trust we have created will hopefully provide some support to Mariah in trying to cope with the terrible loss of her father. Our prayers are with Mariah, Al’s wife, De’Shonda, and the rest of the family,” said Upshaw.

The NFL Players Association has previously created similar trust funds for the surviving children of other players who died while still active players in the NFL, including Minnesota Vikings lineman Korey Stringer, San Diego Chargers running back Rodney Culver, Kansas City Chiefs running back Joe Delaney and Miami Dolphins linebacker Larry Gordon.

Those wishing to assist the players in donating to the trust can send a check, payable to the **Al Lucas Trust Fund**, to:

**Al Lucas Trust Fund
c/o Arena Football League Players Association
2021 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036**