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Documenting His Historic 3,000+ Mile Charitable Walk for Thousands of Ailing 9/11 Workers, Super Bowl XXI Champ George Martin Authors Book

To be published September 2, "Just Around the Bend" is an inspiring, singular tale of one man's coast-to-coast Journey that raised millions of dollars to help seriously ill heroic Ground Zero workers

Ringwood, NJ, September 2, 2014 – As likely the first professional athlete to walk continuously across the U.S. for charitable purposes, retired **NFL great George Martin** today announced the publication of ***My Journey for 9/11: Just Around the Bend***, a memoir of his historic cross-country walk to benefit thousands of ailing Ground Zero rescue and recovery workers. Martin's courageous endeavor, a **trek that covered 3,003 miles from New York City to San Diego**, raised several million dollars in cash, in-kind contributions and pledged medical services to benefit seriously ill 9/11 workers from all 50 states.

Just Around the Bend weaves the tale of Martin's unrelenting, inspiring quest "to help right the wrong" of how thousands of sick rescue and recovery workers were being treated -- or not treated -- for serious ailments resulting from their service in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. "Every day I would read reports of more and more of these heroic figures getting sicker and sicker, with lung disease, PTSD and more, and not enough was being done for them," says Martin, the retired **co-captain of the Super Bowl XXI NY Giants** championship football team. "So I walked, guided by my faith, to shine a light on their plight and to raise money for their care. *And* to see the splendors of America the way few get to see it. It was a great and humbling honor."

Published by Significance Press in New York and co-written with Richard Fritzky, the 300-page book documents through prose and numerous photos Martin's walk and the events in his life on and off the football field which inspired and prepared him mentally and physically to take on this monumental challenge. The life-long humanitarian started walking west from the George Washington Bridge in New York City on September 16, 2007, and, over the course of more than nine months, encountered rainstorms in the Northeast, the freezing temperatures and driving winds of the Great Plains and the mountains and desert heat of the Southwest. The reader of *Just Around the Bend* is taken on the Journey with Martin, meeting the diverse characters he encounters along the way, savoring the magnificent landscapes, and braving often fierce weather and dangerous terrain conditions.

The book's Foreword is provided by **NFL Hall of Fame coach Bill Parcells**. "I've experienced and witnessed some extraordinary things in my life," said Parcells. "Great acts of courage. Impressive demonstrations of athleticism and endurance. Moments of true generosity and selflessness. Rarely, if ever, though, do you see *all of that wrapped into one*. But that's really what George's Journey was."

Martin trekked through 13 states and Washington, DC, where, in October 2007, he met with several members of the U.S. Congress who were advocating legislation for additional funding for 9/11 healthcare programs. "By any standard, George Martin's Journey was a remarkable feat," said **U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney**. "The attention he brought to the plight of thousands of ailing rescue and recovery workers of Ground Zero was surely instrumental in the passage of the **James L. Zadroga 9/11 Health & Compensation Act**. George is a Giant of a man, and it was my honor to work alongside him to achieve justice and secure care for a vast community of selfless and courageous Americans."

Just Around the Bend is available for purchase as of September 2, 2014, and is priced at \$20.00 for the print version, available through Amazon [here](#) and \$9.95 for the e-book version, downloadable [here](#). The books are available for purchase via Amazon. **A portion of proceeds from some book sales will be donated by Martin to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.**

About George Martin and the Route

George Martin was a star defensive end and co-captain of the Super Bowl XXI Champion New York Giants (1986). During his 14 NFL seasons (1975-1988), the longtime Giant scored eight touchdowns -- seven of them as a defensive lineman, which set an NFL record that stood until 2007. **Martin is a former president of both the NFL Players Association and the NFL Alumni Association.**

On *a Journey for 9/11*, Martin walked through portions of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Washington, DC. Money raised on the Journey was donated to three hospitals monitoring and treating 9/11 workers -- Mt. Sinai Medical Center (NY), Hackensack University Medical Center (NJ) and North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health Systems (NY). **During his trek Martin took more than five million steps, lost 41 pounds, went through 27 pairs of sneakers and found \$190.36 in loose change.**

Among the many honors Martin received in recognition of his Journey were ABC News 2007 "Person of the Year," the prestigious Heisman Humanitarian Award, Ellis Island Medal of Honor, New York Sergeants Benevolent Association Humanitarian of the Year, ESPN ESPY Award and the Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award. Additionally, in 2008, he was recognized with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey for his lifelong commitment to community service.

For more information about George Martin and *Just Around the Bend*, visit www.georgedmartin.com.

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