

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DC's Dancing Stars Gala Brings Star Power and Philanthropy to the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City on October 25

Arlington, VA — September 29, 2025 — The countdown is on for one of the region's most anticipated charity galas. The **2025 DC's Dancing Stars Gala** takes place on **Saturday, October 25, at The Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City**, where local celebrities and community leaders will perform choreographed routines alongside professional dancers to raise funds for local worthy charities.

This year's Gala features an **unparalleled celebrity judges' panel**, announced last week to enthusiastic response across social media:

- **Anna Trebunskaya** — Internationally renowned dancer, choreographer, and television personality. Known for her standout performances on *Dancing with the Stars*, Anna brings decades of ballroom expertise and star power to the Gala stage.
- **Charles Haley** — NFL legend, Pro Football Hall of Famer, and the first player in league history to win five Super Bowl championships. Haley is also a dedicated philanthropist and co-founder of TACKLE TOMORROW, fighting illiteracy in underserved communities.
- **Melanie Wilking-Ekeler** — Social media sensation, professional dancer, and returning Gala judge. Melanie has performed with Jason Derulo, Bruno Mars, and Iggy Azalea, and brings unmatched energy, insight, and enthusiasm to the panel.

"Our judges' panel is always a highlight of the Gala," said Maria Coakley David, co-founder and co-chair of DC's Dancing Stars Gala. "This year we're welcoming Anna Trebunskaya and Charles Haley for the first time and celebrating the return of Melanie Wilking-Ekeler. Together they represent the perfect mix of fresh perspectives and familiar expertise which builds on the incredible legacy our past judges have created."

Competitors & Beneficiaries

The 2025 Gala showcases an inspiring roster of local celebrities and community leaders competing to benefit nonprofit organizations that include:

- **Raymond A. Wood Foundation**
- **Blood Cancer United**
- **Jennifer Bush-Lawson Foundation (JBLF)**
- **Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic**

- **Operation Renewed Hope Foundation (ORHF)**
- **Clemson University Foundation**

Each dancer has been working tirelessly to perfect their routines and fundraise for their chosen charity. Fans can ‘Donate to Vote’ online now to support their favorite dancers, with additional live voting available exclusively to guests in the room on Gala night.

About the Event

The 2025 DC’s Dancing Stars Gala takes place **Saturday, October 25, at The Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City**. Guests will enjoy a thrilling dance competition, VIP cocktail reception, gourmet dinner, an exclusive auction experience, and a dance floor that keep the celebration going all night! Since its founding, the Gala has donated more than \$2.1 million to local nonprofit organizations.

Tickets and tables are selling quickly. To reserve your spot or learn more about competitors, charities, and “Donate to Vote,” visit www.dcsdancingstarsgala.com or follow us on social media at **#DCsDancingStarsGala #DancingStars #DonateToVote**.

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