



October 31, 2022

Dear fans,

The Phillie Phanatic has been a crucial part to not only the Phillies, but all of Philadelphia since 1978. The giant green bird originating from the Galapagos Islands has kept us all laughing for decades. Over his 44 years of mayhem, the Phanatic has touched the lives of many and made baseball games true events. Whether he was seen around the park “buffing” the heads of bald fans, pranking broadcasters and fans, or even getting into a rumble with Tommy Lasorda, the Phanatic’s antics kept fans on the edge of their seats- in stitches might we add.

A few years ago, our feathered friend ran into some trouble with some people who realized just how special the Phanatic was to our organization and our fans. As if 2020 wasn’t hard enough, our best friend was stuck in New York over some silly legal issues. While he was being held hostage, we were working tirelessly for his release, but we knew we needed someone to try to fill his gigantic shoes on the field. For this reason, we decided to bring in the Phake Phanatic, Phillie Phanatic’s cousin from the Galapagos; however, it was clear that he wasn’t our Phanatic and you all let us know. After almost two years with this “evolved” Phanatic, we were finally able to rescue our beloved mascot and bring him home to Philadelphia.

The Phanatic was with us for both of our World Series wins, so it only makes sense that upon his return, we had our first World Series appearance since 2009. Coincidence? We don’t think so. Despite the fond memories, it is no secret he’s getting older. His antics haven’t quit, but it’s not getting any easier to be a goofball at his scale. For this reason, the Phanatic will retiring at the end of our 2023 season. Although his retirement seems to be coming out of left field- get it- we feel it is time to let our flightless bird spread his wings and fly into the sunset.

This was not an easy decision for the Phanatic or the Phillies, but we think it is time he gets to enjoy his retirement. Seeing as the Phanatic is no doubt the best mascot in all of sports, he deserves a proper send off. A parade will be held in honor of the Phanatic, going down Broad Street where all of his beloved fans can say farewell. Along with this, despite being forever honored in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, we will be erecting a statue in his honor in Citizens Bank Park. We understand that saying goodbye to a good friend is never easy, but we are not saying goodbye forever. The Phanatic will still make sure to write to the Phillies to let us all know what sort of chaos he’s causing in the Galapagos.

Thank you for always loving our giant green guy and for always being phanatics, Philadelphia.

Sincerely,
The Philadelphia Phillies