

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 20, 2017
EVENT DATE: AUGUST 10-13, 2017
Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Pat Crow - Festival Director
Ph. 740-392-3378 Fax 740-392-7840
Cell phone – (740) 507-3898

For Detailed Up-to-Date Festival Information, Visit www.DanEmmettFestival.org

Community Awards

Presented at Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival

MOUNT VERNON – The 16th annual “Eleanor Wright Unsung Hero Award” will be presented Thursday night during the 2017 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival. The Award will honor one of the many local unsung heroes, those behind-the-scenes volunteers who give their time and hard work without any public recognition of their efforts.

Eleanor Wright cared for the grave of Dan Emmett for over 35 years. Due to Eleanor’s loving dedication, the gravesite area was cleaned, flowers planted, and needed maintenance performed to keep up the grave of the author of “Dixie,” “Old Dan Tucker,” “Turkey in the Straw,” and “Blue Tail Fly.” Eleanor felt the grave of this important Mount Vernon resident deserved much more, and this “unsung hero” did something about it. The “Eleanor Wright Unsung Hero Award” will be presented on Thursday, August 10 on the First-Knox Main Stage. Previous honorees are Eleanor Wright, Curt Cree, Jim Ingerham, M. E. Carpenter, Sally Nelson, John Nixon, Carol Kilkenny, Julie Chester, Chuck Kindel, Patti Dice, Susan Kahrl, Janis Stone, David Glass, Larry Grindle, Wally Thomen, and last year’s recipient Mark Phillips.

The Community Service Bell will be presented on Saturday evening, August 12 at the First-Knox Main Stage. This award honors those people who have gone above and beyond the call of duty over the years in service to the community. Previous honorees include Tom Metcalf, Ron Staats, Kay Culbertson, Phil Samuel, Mayor Richard Mavis, Jerry Scott, Sam Barone, Joe and Marcy Rinehart, Matt Starr, Gloria Parsisson, Sandy Rhoton, and Michael Percy.

The 9th Annual Emmett Award will also be presented Saturday evening at the Main Stage. The Emmett Award is a lifetime achievement award recognizing the dedication and major contributions to the arts in Knox County. Previous honorees include Bruce Jacklin, Mike Petee, Joe and Marty Bell, Lynn Jurkowitz, Dr. Benjamin Locke, Bob Tocheff, Chuck Lawson, and last year’s recipient Sarah Goslee Reed.

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Highlights of this year's Festival will include performances by Lee Greenwood, Phil Dirt & The Dozers, a wide variety of local musicians and performers (such as Kokosing River Surf Club, Derek Posey Band, Elvis' Long Lost Brother, King Darwin), the Knox Idol competition, fiddle, banjo, and flat-pick guitar contests, a cheer competition, a flower show, a quilt show, arts, crafts, homemades, a motorcycle show, and the annual antique & classic car show, all with a wide variety of delicious foods.

The 2017 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival runs August 10th-13th in Downtown Mount Vernon with various activities each day. This year's Festival is made possible through the contributions of Ariel Corporation and First-Knox National Bank. For additional information, contact the Festival at (740) 392-FEST (3378) or email at director@DanEmmettFestival.org

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