

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 1, 2016
EVENT DATE: AUGUST 11-14, 2016
Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival

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

Community Awards

Presented at Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival

MOUNT VERNON – The 15th annual “Eleanor Wright Unsung Hero Award” will be presented Thursday night during the 2016 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 11 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, and Wally Thomen.

The Community Service Bell will be presented on Saturday evening, August 13 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 8th 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, and Chuck Lawson.

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Highlights of this year's Festival will include performances by BJ Thomas, Phil Dirt & The Dozers, a wide variety of local musicians and performers (such as Kokosing River Surf Club, Safire Sun, and Caffiends, 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 2016 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival runs August 11th-14th in Downtown Mount Vernon with various activities each day. This year's Festival is made possible through the contributions of Ariel, First-Knox National Bank, and Time Warner Cable. For additional information, contact the Festival at (740) 392-FEST (3378) or email at director@DanEmmettFestival.org.

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