

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 2009**  
**EVENT DATE: AUGUST 13-16, 2009**  
**Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
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For Detailed Up-to-Date Festival Information, Visit [www.DanEmmettFestival.org](http://www.DanEmmettFestival.org)

## **Festival Presents 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Award at Emmett Dedication Ceremony**

MOUNT VERNON - The 9th annual "Eleanor Wright Unsung Hero Award" will be presented during the 2009 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival. The Award will honor one of the many local unsung heroes, those volunteers behind the scenes, who give their time and hard work without any public recognition of their efforts.

For over 35 years, Eleanor Wright has cared for the grave of Dan Emmett. 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" and "Blue Tail Fly." Eleanor felt the grave of this important Mount Vernon resident deserved so much more, and this "unsung hero" did something about it. Eleanor started the ceremony at the gravesite, which she ran until 2001, as another tribute to the man for whom the music and arts festival is named, a man who had written two of Abraham Lincoln's all time favorite songs.

The ceremony will open with a song written in honor of Emmett, called "Dan Emmett (A Hero in This Town)" written by Mike Petee and performed by the musical trio Elixir [who will perform a full set of their award winning music immediately after the ceremony] and The Knox Choraliers, a group of talented grade school age singers under the direction of Diane Dinger. The invocation will then be presented by Ted Dinger. Mike Petee will present "The Story Behind the Name" an historical look at the man for whom the Festival is named. A sing-a-long of Dan Emmett's most recognized song, "Dixie's Land" will then be sung. The ceremony will conclude with the presentation of this year's recipient of the Eleanor Wright "Unsung Hero Award", presented by the Honorable Mayor of Mount Vernon, Richard K. Mavis.

The "Eleanor Wright Unsung Hero Award" will be presented at the ceremony, to be held at 5:30 pm on Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup> from the First-Knox Main Stage on the Square in downtown Mount Vernon. Previous honorees are Eleanor Wright, Curt Cree, Jim Ingerham, M. E. Carpenter, Sally Nelson, John Nixon, Carol Kilkenny, and Julie Chester.

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The Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival runs August 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> in Downtown Mount Vernon with various activities each day. For information, contact the Festival at (740) 392-FEST (3378). For detailed scheduling information, visit the Festival website at [www.DanEmmettFestvial.org](http://www.DanEmmettFestvial.org) . The 2009 Dan Emmett Music & Art Festival is made possible by the contributions by Ariel, First-Knox National Bank, Time Warner Cable, WMVO, Eagle 93, WNZR, I-Conn Video Productions, Mount Vernon News, and the Knox County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

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