

2023 (12th Annual) VETERANS FREEDOM MUSIC FESTIVAL



Scroll down to read all about the 2023 (13th Annual) Veterans Freedom Music Festival, including the Sponsors, Performers, Awards, and Booths!

2023 VETERANS FREEDOM MUSIC FESTIVAL WATER SPONSOR



Veterans Freedom Music Festival Chair, Bruce Trautwein (on the left) with Johann Kooij of Norland Pure, the bottled water donor for both the 2023 VAG Lincoln Show & Shine and 2023 Veterans Freedom Music Festival...

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13TH ANNUAL VETERANS FREEDOM MUSIC FESTIVAL

WELCOME

Welcome to the Veterans Freedom Music Festival at the beautiful Antelope Park. We will be playing music with 6 local bands all through the day until 5pm!

Make sure you see the ***Remembering our Fallen*** exhibit. The Auld Pavilion is full of items made by local veteran artists. And there's information booths for veterans and their families.

Food service is provided by the Knights of Columbus and the UNL Dairy Store is here with ice cream!

We welcome coolers, but no alcohol...and no pets today.

A free will donation will be accepted for the People's City Mission.

The Veterans Freedom Music Festival Event is open to the Public and best of all, Admission is FREE!!

The Veterans Freedom Music Festival is produced by the Lincoln Veterans Advisory Group.

MISSION

The Mission of the Veterans Freedom Music Festival is to offer a free outdoor live music event to: Expose Veterans to the benefits and programs that are offered to them through the Veteran's Administration and the **Veterans Advisory Group (VAG Lincoln)**.

And to give the public an opportunity to say to our Veterans,
"THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!"

HISTORY

The **Veterans Freedom Music Festival** was the brainchild of **Terry Gillispie**, from Lincoln, Nebraska. In 2011, Terry asked **Dave Rusk**, a local radio executive and 'self-styled musician,' if he would play some music for the Veterans at the Lincoln VA hospital.

Dave played the first year, but both he and Terry saw an opportunity to turn the idea into something really meaningful for THE Lincoln community, and as a way to honor our Veterans. AND THEN...They Made it Happen! Dave and Terry along with a host of volunteers and donors came together and formed the Veterans Freedom Music Festival as a benefit for veterans. The Festival has grown quickly and 2023 is our 13th year. Top Bands in the area are featured, and the event has become 'Lincoln's Largest FREE Outdoor Music Festival.'

THANK YOUs

The Veterans Advisory Group would like to thank the following for making the VETERANS FREEDOM MUSIC FESTIVAL happen:

SANDHILLS GLOBAL

Sandhill Global is a privately held American information processing company that produces a diverse range of products and services from well-established trade publications and websites to hosted technology services. Sandhills Global/Peed Foundation is a proud donor of the Veterans Advisory Group in support of the Veterans Freedom Music Festival and a Veterans supporter and employer throughout their entire global platform. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

MONOLITH

Monolith Materials vision is to be the world's leading Clean Hydrogen and clean materials company. Monolith is the only manufacturer in the world that can offer zero-emission, low-cost Clean Hydrogen and high-value carbon black. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

ELKS LINCOLN LODGE #80

Lincoln Lodge #80 is just one of the Elks Lodges which bring so much more to their communities than just a building, golf course or pool. They are places where neighbors come together, families share meals, and children grow up. Elks invest in their communities through programs that help children grow up healthy and drug-free, meet the needs of today's veterans, and improve the quality of life. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

ALPHA MEDIA

Alpha Media is proud to be here in support of our veterans and the Veterans Freedom Music Festival. We have 6 radio stations that represent all genres and are dedicated to serving our community. I'm sure you've listened to at least one of our stations over the years:

KFOR 101.5FM / 1240AM

92-9 The Eagle

106.3 KFRX

MIX 103-3

104.1 The Blaze

Kicks 96.9

THE BANDS

Thank you to all the bands today for their time and talents: Bill Chrastil (Chras-Steel), Mojo Filter, Dirty Boots, Bolzen Beer Band, Cole Younger and the Renegades and 3 Chords and a Cloud of Dust. Also thank you to Tony Hillhouse for the sound system today.

TODAY'S EVENTS

1100A - OPENING CEREMONIES

Presentation of Colors

National Anthem sung by Marie Barrett

Pledge of Allegiance led by _____

Invocation given by Chaplin Cliff Short

Quilts Presented by Lincoln Quilts of Valor

Sing all 5 Service Songs - Bill Chrastil (Chras-steel)

Bill has been a full time musician and entertainer. In addition to being a songwriter and producer, he is also an accomplished instrumentalist, playing the guitar, piano, bass guitar, drums and harmonica. Bill was inducted into the Nebraska and South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame. Last New Year's Eve marked 50 years he has been in the music business

1115A ELVIS BILL CHRASTIL (Chras-steel)

Bill has performed all over the United States and has received numerous awards. Bill is a full time musician and entertainer. In addition to being a songwriter and producer, he is also an accomplished instrumentalist. Bill has been honored with numerous awards in Branson, MO including Best Gospel CD of the year, Best Vocal Impressionist of the year, Best Horizon Show of the year. Bill has been inducted into the Nebraska and South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame. Last year, he was inducted into the Nebraska Music Hall of Fame and the Iowa All Music Hall of Fame. Bill pays tribute to our Police Officers, Firemen, First Responders, Veterans and Current Men and Women who are serving in our United States Military. One of Bill's projects he holds dear to his heart is his annual benefit for our Homeless Veterans. When Bill is not touring, he spends time performing at assisted living, care centers and retirement communities. Many residents are not able to travel for entertainment, so Bill brings his award-winning show to them.

12PM MOJO FILTER

Enjoy oldies rock 'n roll from the '50s, '60s and '70s brought to you by Mojo Filter, one of the area's most fun and enduring bands, playing "Music You Will Remember!" Go to Mojo Filter on Facebook or [mojo filter band dot com](http://mojofilterband.com) to get their show schedule and booking information. Band members include:

Tom Brogan on drums,

Duane Remmers on bass and vocals,

Jeff Weixelman on keyboard and vocals

Ian Lapsley, lead guitar and vocals

1PM DIRTY BOOTS

DIRTY BOOTS BAND is a variety country band that plays older, 80's, 90's and current country music. They are a great dance band! The band members are:

Lead singer and acoustic - Brent Monnier

Drums - Steve Bruggeman

Lead Guitar and steel guitar - Scotty Ray

Bass guitar - Nick Brown

145P BILL HARRIS FRIENDS OF VETERANS AWARD

Dave Rusk to introduce Susan Harris (*Susan Harris is Bill Harris's niece. Susan is the daughter of J.T. Harris....Bill's oldest brother.*)

Susan Harris will do the award Presentation:

Bill Harris was Mayor of Lincoln from 1987 to 1991. During Bill's tenure as Mayor, Bill was instrumental in starting VETERANS MEMORIAL GARDEN here at Antelope Park.

This is the 12th year that the **Bill Harris Friend of Veterans Award** has been presented to a deserving person that has gone above and beyond for Veterans. The first award was presented in 2011 and thanks to KFOR radio for adopting this great award to make sure Bill Harris's dedication to Veterans lives on!

This year's recipient is Ed Schnable (Shnah bull), and here to read Ed's nomination is Bruce Trautwein.

(Bruce to read nomination)

Ed Schnabel gives of himself more than any other man I know! After he finished service in Thailand...during the 70's... working in electronics listening, he received his discharge from the military. He returned home and became a teacher. During this time he also cared for his mother until her passing.

On retiring Ed was going to travel, but it is my belief that with his obligations, that has not been possible. Starting the list of commitments;

- Member of local Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Member and Post Adjutant of The American Legion Post 3
- Member of Society of 40 and; 8 Voiture #103
- Member of Chapter 7 Disabled American Veteran
- Member and Treasurer, Veteran Advisory Group Lincoln. He has also been a driving force with the monthly CoffeeHaus and Veterans Freedom Music Festival for the last 13 years
- Volunteer at the Lincoln VA Clinic
- Member and Treasurer of local Lions Club
- Last but one of the most outstanding, is member, choir member, religion instructor and Treasurer of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.

I feel humbled to be able to call this man my friend.

2PM BOLZEN BEER BAND

From the heartland of America to the hinterland of Germany, Bolzen Beer Band takes an old school polka sound and injects pure rock energy to create a fun punk polka party that is taking the festival scene by storm!

Bolzen is led by Accordionist David Socha, a German speaker and former metal drummer who played in bands like Creagrutus and Axes to the Sky. His time spent in Bavaria, home of the original Oktoberfest, has given Dave a love of the music and language of this influential land.

Drummer Mike Selvage and tuba player Alaina Blaker joined the project as a ready-made rhythm section. As the heartbeat of the band these two provide the tempos that will keep any audience dancing. Early on, the group gained notoriety by becoming fan favorites at Nebraska Husker football games with their rowdy style, perfect for the tailgate scene. From there, they soon played at beer festivals, German festivals, and events all across the Midwest, Texas and Europe, including being the first American band to play Gillamoos, a 700 year old festival, 3rd largest volksfest in Germany! PROST!

Accordion-Dave Socha

Drums- Michael Selvage

Tuba-Alaina Blaker

3PM COLE YOUNG AND THE RENEGADES

The Cole Young and The Renegades is a high energy group of performers, specializing in Country Classic, Rock, and Red Dirt 50s 60s Rock n Roll and Blues. Band was formed in 2017 with the combined playing of 115 years! They have opened for Joe Diffie, Tanya Tucker, George Jones, Highway 101, Blackhawk, The Gourds, Aaron Watson and many more! You can find them on facebook for contact and booking information.

Now to introduce the band members....

(They would like to be called up individually...so they can walk up on stage and take their spot)

Cole Younger- Lead Guitar and Lead Vocals

Angel Syers- Tambourine, eggs, rain stick and vocals

Jack Carlson - Bass and vocals

Jeff Waxxman - Drums and vocals

4PM 3 CHORDS AND A CLOUD OF DUST

Just friends making folksy, down-home, front porch kickin' good time music to help you smile. One member is Dave Rusk, a founder of the Veterans Freedom Music Festival.

Members - Dave Egr, Norm Hamel, Elaine Behrends, Larry Bady, Doug Nelson, Glen Bailey, Roger Steiger, John Blumer, Denny Bowers, Scott Smetter, Howard Ernst, and Dave Rusk.

5PM CLOSING CEREMONY

...with TAPS by Kevin Murray

VETERAN SERVICES INFORMATION BOOTHS

VET CENTER – (Located at 84th and O is here with their Mobile Vet Center Truck.)

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

VALLEY HOPE OF NEBRASKA

GUITARS FOR VETS - (They put guitars in the hands of veterans and share the healing power.)

VET SET NEBRASKA (Supports veterans and their families who reside in rural or underserved areas.)

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

LINCOLN VETERANS PARADE - (Set for Sunday, November 12th at 2p.)

AT EASE - (Provides PTSD Services to those who serve.)

PEOPLE'S CITY MISSION (Collecting Donations)

AMVETS NEBRASKA - (AMVETS Nebraska strives to do good things for deserving people; particularly veterans, their families, and their communities.)

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF NEBRASKA (VFW)

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS OF NEBRASKA

AMERICAN LEGION OF NEBRASKA

AIR FORCE RECRUITERS

NEW CENTURY ART GUILD -LOCATED IN THE AULD PAVILION - (Their primary mission is to provide training in art and business education to military veteran artists.)

WARRIOR WRITERS OF NEBRASKA - (They are also located inside the Auld Pavilion with the Veteran Art show)