

## The Walking Phoenixes - *biography*

When the Walking Phoenixes take the stage in their signature “all black” three piece suits, you can’t help but wonder if these young men have what it takes to be a tribute to the “Man In Black.” It is more than just a band or a likeness of Johnny Cash. It’s an experience.

The Walking Phoenixes give these classic songs a re-birth, a modern and sometimes hot-rodded sound created out of their liking and love for Johnny Cash. They don’t sound like any



particular band. They do have all kinds of influences, but that just brings a very colorful and layered sound to what they do with the Johnny Cash songs. Some songs are sped up, and some are even slowed down. It depends on the content, style, and story of the song. There are different band members, with different perspectives. Each has a very different palette of paint to work from. You add all that together, and you get their sound with the Johnny Cash overtone essence and presence.

They strive to be like “a flower of light in a field of darkness.” These are the lyrics in the song “Greystone Chapel,” written by Glen Sherley (an inmate at Folsom Prison). Johnny Cash had performed this song at Folsom Prison while Sherley was still there. Whether they are headlining a summer concert series for over 10,000 people, or performing for one special person, they strive to inspire and uplift any environment, touch people’s hearts and make them smile. The Walking Phoenixes have played at benefit concerts for all different types of awareness. From mesothelioma motorcycle runs, job awareness for the U.S. veterans, life care centers for the aging, to even a prison. They are in fact a flower of light in a field of darkness.



# CHARITIES, FUNDRAISERS & SPECIAL EVENTS

## Ground breaking ceremony of the Johnny Cash Trail (June - 2014)

Cindy Cash sang with Walking Phoenixes "Daddy Sang Bass" which was featured on various Sacramento television stations and several newspaper articles, including the front page of *The Folsom Telegraph*.



(Above) The Walking Phoenixes pose with Cindy Cash and Folsom City Council member Robert Goss at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Johnny Cash Trail.



The Walking Phoenixes' Drew Young sings a duet with Cindy Cash, daughter of the late singer Johnny Cash, during a groundbreaking ceremony Feb. 27 for the Johnny Cash Trail. PHOTOS BY DON CHADDOCK • THE TELEGRAPH

## Folsom's Johnny Cash Trail breaks ground

New trail runs 2.5 miles across prison grounds, costs \$3.8 million

DON CHADDOCK  
TELEGRAPH MANAGING EDITOR

Rain clouds parted Thursday and the sun shined down on a gathering to mark a new 2-and-a-half mile trail in Folsom.

Dubbed The Johnny Cash Trail, it will link four existing trail systems in Folsom and features a bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing at Folsom Lake Crossing road, just beyond the light at E. Natoma Street. The price tag is estimated to be around \$3.8 million and it is expected to open in fall 2014.

While a new trail might go

without much fanfare in other cities, this one crosses state prison grounds.

The groundbreaking ceremony drew the popular band, Los Angeles-based Walking Phoenixes, a Johnny Cash tribute band; Johnny Cash's daughter, Cindy Cash; state Sen. Ted Gaines; state Assemblywoman Beth Gaines; prison officials and an official from the Army Corps of Engineers. Close to 100 turned out for the ceremony.

"Where else do you get a band for a groundbreaking? Only in Folsom," said Folsom Mayor Kerri Howell. "I'm so excited about this project."

Robert Goss, the city's Parks and Recreation department director, said this trail was worthy

• SEE TRAIL PAGE A7



From left, Assemblywoman Beth Gaines, Cindy Cash, Folsom Mayor Kerri Howell and state Sen. Ted Gaines pose with a resolution from the state Legislature recognizing the Cash family and the city of Folsom.

## The Walking Phoenixes perform at the ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the Johnny Cash Trail (October - 2014)

Rosanne Cash makes a special appearance at the ribbon cutting. She also poses here with The Walking Phoenixes right after their performance at the trail.



## A Personal Concert for Jacob in Minnesota

The Walking Phoenixes are known for their charitable causes and donation of entertainment. Many events include special personal concerts, like this one below.



During their North Western tour in 2013, Walking Phoenixes visited little Jacob in Minnesota. He wanted to hear some Johnny Cash, so the band fulfilled his wish. Jacob suffers from a rare disease known as Complex 1 Mitochondrial Disease.

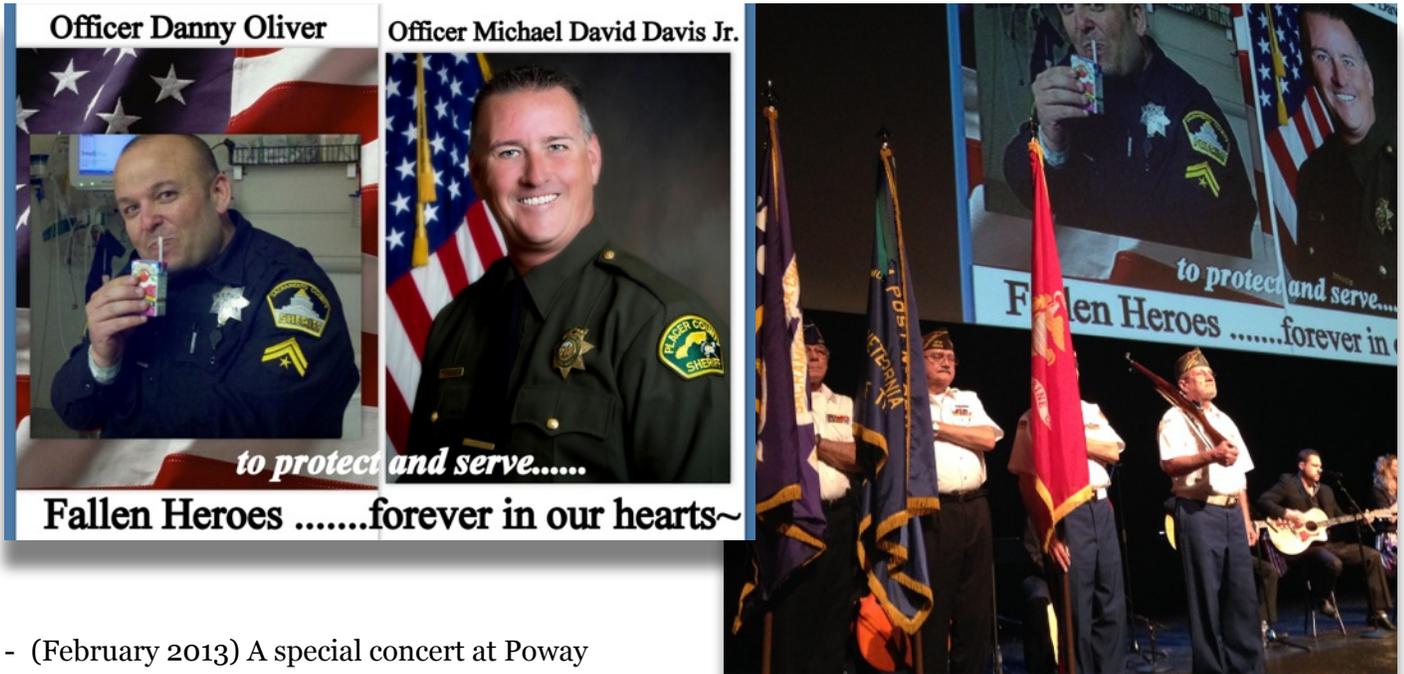
## The 135th Anniversary of Folsom Prison

The Walking Phoenixes have been personally invited by retired correctional officers Joel Valencia and Jim Brown to perform at this landmark of an anniversary, coming up in July of 2015. The performance is set to encompass the new Folsom Prison Museum that is in progress of being constructed.



# Tributes to Fallen Officers & Victims of Crime

- (January 2015) Harris Center - A Special Solute is given to the Correctional Officers/Veterans and all Service Men and Women of the nation. The band set aside a special part of the show dedicated to the fallen officers of Sacramento: Danny Oliver & Michael David Davis.



- (February 2013) A special concert at Poway Performing Arts Center in San Diego - The band set aside a special part of the show dedicated to the slain of Poway High School student Chelsea King and Escondido High School student Amber Dubois.



- (2012 Minnesota Tour) Two concerts are performed: A special concert for Veterans of Foreign Wars in Granite Falls, MN and a job fair concert for Veterans of Foreign Wars in Marshall, MN.



American Legion Post 113  
Marshall, Minnesota

**"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."**

Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle; April 18, 1942

August 2012

**AUGUST: Foot Health Month – National Golf Month – National Inventors Month – American Artist Appreciation Month**

## **FIRE AND BRIMSTONE; THUNDER AND LIGHTNING!**

By Jeffrey Gay – Legion Post 113 Commander

**What a night! WOW!** It began with a short awards program followed by the crowd holding their hearts and declaring their Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag... The crowd was a culmination of ages ranging from Veterans of the current era all the way back to WWII Vets; although I believe the majority were that of the Vietnam era.

**The music kicked off and now I know that cacti do scream!!!!!!** "Screaming Cactus" performed many of our favorites past and present bringing with them foot stomping rhythm to the crowd and having almost as much fun on-stage as those in the grandstand. They were certainly showing their spirit for the Veterans, one is even the proud parent of a Veteran!

**In the wake of "Screaming Cactus"** we saw another band on stage begin playing but couldn't see where the familiar vocal strains of the sound of Johnny Cash were originating. Suddenly, a showroom like new 1956 Chevy appeared from the outfield moving slowly stopping by the stage and out steps Drew Young, lead singer of "The Walking Phoenixes" (a Johnny Cash Tribute band from California) with microphone in hand dressed as the "Man in Black". What an entrance!

**Following that were many songs reminiscent of the great Johnny Cash** executed with the precision and quality that would have made him proud, the crowd sang along and savored the memories of times past. Above the band a massive American flag flowed gently in the breeze above the stage. It's not "an Old Ragged Flag" that we flew with grace!

**The rolling rumble of thunder was the first sign** and the strobe-like flashes of lightning ushered in the beginning of the end, or so we thought... By most standards the show would have ended as the rain began to fall **but not this night**. The band fled from the stage only to emerge in the grandstand armed with acoustic guitars, a saxophone and a fresh set of drum sticks continuing the concert standing on the seats!

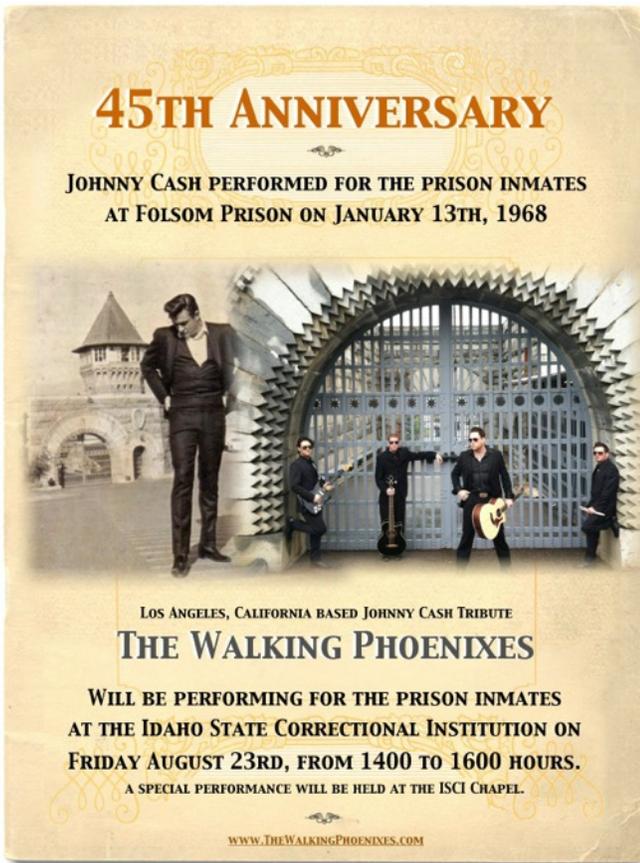
The saxophonist was local from Granite Falls and had never played with them before but rocked with the best of them! The crowd was exuberant and gathered around the band never sitting the remainder of the concert.

They sang along and their bodies gyrated to the rhythm with the sound of thunder cracking above and lightning streaking through the sky, glimmering through the falling rain. It's as if Johnny himself was there looking down with pride at everyone! There was enough lighting to make you actually think you were "in a Ring of Fire" and could actually see the "Ghost Riders in the Sky"!



**This was truly a night to remember!** Their impromptu decision to move the show to the fans created a more intimate enjoyment for everyone... Both bands were exceptional and it was truly an honor to be witness to such professionalism and dedication exceeding all of our expectations! They definitely did "Walk the Line"!

Friend them at [www.Facebook.com/WalkingPhoenixes](http://www.Facebook.com/WalkingPhoenixes) or for more pictures go to [www.allwhohaveserved.org](http://www.allwhohaveserved.org).



-(Summer 2013) The Walking Phoenixes perform at the Idaho State Prison for 300 + inmates. The band receives a standing ovation, along with letters written to the band from various prisoners.

-(2013, 2014, 2015) The celebration and recognition three years in a row of the 45th, 46th and 47th Johnny Cash Anniversary prison concert. All three years were performed on the main stage at Three Stages/Harris Center in Folsom, CA. In 2013, Walking Phoenixes gave a special salute and plaques were given to the Correctional Officers of Folsom Prison and the National Correctional Peace Officers Foundation of Sacramento. Plaques were also given to the City of Folsom Mayor & Staff; Chamber of Commerce Staff, Folsom Historic Society including Folsom Prison Museum, Folsom Train Museum and Folsom Historic Museum.

-(Summer 2013-2014) The band performs at a fundraiser to support Mesothelioma research. Both locations were located in Malibu, CA.

**Folsom Prison “Last Supper” Restoration**  
 Prison is a lonely place. The chapel is a place of joy and peace for many inmates.....  
 The Last Supper is in dire need of repair. Lets not let it crumble from the Greystone Chapel!

**Greystone Chapel Folsom Prison**

**Drew Young**  
 818-903-9800

**Artist: Ralph Pekor - Inmate**

501C - 100% proceeds for restoration of mural

**Folsom Prison Gate**

[www.folsomprisonrestoration.com](http://www.folsomprisonrestoration.com)

-(January 2014) Harris Center - A special salute to the Correctional Officers & Veterans of Folsom, including a short documentary of the Folsom Correctional Officers created by singer Drewin Young.

-(October 2014) VFW Fundraiser in Folsom for Veterans - This concert was known as the largest fundraiser known to date.

-(January 2015) The Walking Phoenixes acquired a support letter from Bernard Parks (City of Los Angeles) for the “Big House Museum.”

-(April 2015) “Fight For Sight” The band performs a fundraiser to help raise money for a 16 year old girl that is losing her eyesight.

-(Present) An ongoing campaign to raise funds to help restore The Last Supper painting inside the Greystone Chapel at Folsom Prison.

# L.A. band walks the line to honor Johnny Cash

BY LAURA NEWELL  
FOLSOM LAKE ENTERTAINER

On Jan. 13, 1968, Johnny Cash took his band and a couple of opening acts to Folsom State Prison to record two shows. As a result, Cash's album, "At Folsom Prison," was recorded and it remains a popular part of Folsom's history.

On the 45th anniversary weekend of Cash's recording at Folsom Prison, Los Angeles based tribute band The Walking Phoenixes will come to Folsom for a special performance honoring the late Johnny Cash.

The band will perform at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12, at Three Stages Performing Arts Center in Folsom.

Drewin Young, 34, will portray Cash as the band's lead singer with the band alongside him including Jared Miller, 33, on bass; Gregg Karagianis, 26, on lead guitar; and Nick Ineck, 30, on drums.

"We are carrying on Johnny Cash's tradition of humanitarian work," Young said. "When people hear 'tribute band,' they imagine we are imitating. We are not imitating, we are interpreting him."

According to Young, the band hopes to perform for inmates at the Greystone Chapel at Folsom Prison as a special tribute to the 45th anniversary recording. The band was working on the details with prison officials for the performance when the Entertainer went to press.

"This reality is euphoric for us to play for the



KEN LARSON • FOLSOM LAKE ENTERTAINER

The Walking Phoenixes, a Johnny Cash tribute band, will perform at Three Stages in Folsom on the 45th anniversary weekend of Johnny Cash's recording of his breakout album, "At Folsom Prison." The band is photographed here outside of the Folsom Prison front gate when they paid a visit to town in December.

**KNOW AND GO**

**What:** The Walking Phoenixes  
**When:** 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 12  
**Where:** Three Stages, 10 College Parkway, Folsom  
**Tickets:** threestages.net

inmates on the same day that Johnny Cash played here 45 years ago," Young said.

While the planned performance at Folsom

**"We are carrying on Johnny Cash's tradition of humanitarian work. ... When people hear 'tribute band,' they imagine we are imitating. We are not imitating, we are interpreting him."**

Drewin Young, lead singer, The Walking Phoenixes

Prison would be closed to the public, their Jan. 12 show at Three Stages will be open for concert goers.

"The audience can expect a fun, interactive show at Three Stages," Young said. "People will want to get up and dance.

Our shows are very high-energy. We have a modern approach to his sound, but it's still enjoyable for all ages."

The bandmates said putting on the suit gives them a sense of responsibility.

"There is a respect with

putting on the black suit," Young said. "We have a responsibility to act a certain way. That transformation has really changed us as performers. We are trying to do the Lord's work the best that we can — and Johnny Cash is our vessel."

The band is also looking forward to spending some time in Folsom.

"Folsom is just so kind and accepting," Young said. "Everyone has a sense of pride in their town's history. I'm making music for a purpose. We love playing for anyone, anywhere. When the love is there, anything is possible."

For more information and tickets, visit threestages.net.



KEN LARSON • TELEGRAPH FILE PHOTO

The Walking Phoenixes, a Johnny Cash tribute band, will perform at Harris Center for the Arts in Folsom. The band is photographed here outside of the Folsom Prison front gate.

## Band honors Johnny Cash legacy

BY LAURA NEWELL  
FOLSOM LAKE ENTERTAINER

The Los Angeles based tribute band named The Walking Phoenixes will come to Folsom this month for a special performance honoring Johnny Cash and his Jan. 13, 1968, recording of "At Folsom Prison."

Drewin Young will portray Cash as the band's lead singer with the band alongside him including Laurelyn Arrington portraying June Carter; Jared Miller, on electric bass; Gregg Karagianis, on lead electric guitar; and Nick Ineck, on drums.

"Our show will start with a short video in the beginning as a salute to

the Correctional Officers of Folsom," Young said. "This will be followed by a full night of entertainment of Johnny Cash's famous songs that he played 46 years ago at Folsom Prison, along with a few other songs from various country artists."

Special guest singer James Kruk will also perform with the band.

"James is an awesome Elvis impersonator," Young said. "As many people know, Johnny Cash had performed with Elvis back in the day. We have a full agenda and looking forward to the beautiful Harris Center."

The Walking Phoenixes



The Walking Phoenixes have been actively involved with the American Red Cross, LAPD and many other associations since 2008.