

Tributes

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shared experiences, as they move from reflection and recognition to music, fellowship and hope.

Among the key tributes that night will be the 343 Remembrance Wall, where attendees can leave personal messages honoring the 343 firefighters who lost their lives at Ground Zero.

“Guests also will witness the creation of a special Survivor Tree tribute, cut from sheet metal on-site during the event,” per the release. “Inspired by the tree that survived the destruction at the World Trade Center and later became a living symbol of resilience, rebirth and hope, the completed artwork will serve as a lasting reminder of the strength that can emerge from tragedy.”

Further, the program will include an Honor Guard pre-

Lynch

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find his stomach, which shortly after appeared. He passed away in 2019 but before then, he was a motivational speaker and left the message, “If I stay silent, the darkness has no opposition ...”

Although Lynch does not have a medical background, she uses her proficiency with computers to help with the mission’s database.

“Love Without Reason is an amazing name because we go in other countries and we love without reason,” she said. “I go because He loved me first.”

The organization has done

sentation, chaplain invocation, first responder recognition ceremony and community moment of remembrance.

The concert will be hosted by Sterl the Pearl, a Knoxville favorite, and will feature a lineup of acclaimed East Tennessee performers: Cruz Contreras and The Black Lillies, Con Hunley, Eric Baker, Jill Andrews, Hanna Marie Kelley and Jeanine Fuller and The True Funk Souldiers.

The Tributes and Tunes event is designed as a gathering for guests of all ages, so there will be food trucks, children’s activities and even an inflatable play area with displays featuring fire trucks and other first responder vehicles.

First responders will receive free event admission to the event, made possible by Food City.

Complimentary tickets are being distributed through participating first responder agencies and supervisors.

more than 1,462 surgeries, held 87 international medical missions/camps and have more than 100 medical specialists from eight countries and more than 1,000 volunteers across seven countries.



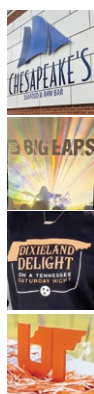
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Participating food vendors also will offer discounts to first responders during the event. Complimentary meals are not included.

General admission tickets are \$25 all-inclusive, with no additional taxes or ticketing fees. Guests are encouraged to bring a camp chair or blanket and enjoy the evening beneath the Knoxville skyline.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Knoxville Public Safety Foundation, supporting firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMS personnel and first responder families across East Tennessee.

“Sept. 11 reminds us how quickly ordinary people can be called to do extraordinary things,” Snukals said in the release. “Twenty-five years later, Knoxville has an opportunity to stand together, say thank you and show our first responders that their service and sacrifice will never be taken for granted.”

Lynch said LWR has rescued more than 300 women and children from sexual slavery, provided more than 3,000 Set Free (menstrual) pads, and “touched millions with the message of love without reason.”

Big Kahuna

From page 4B

Health for its “continued support” in a release, adding that Cumulus Radio, U.S. Foods, PrintFX and Visit Knoxville are just a few of the brands who continue to support the festival.

As far as the food itself, the festival has gone beyond wings, as there are new culinary experiences available for purchase with wing tickets this year.

“We’re trying to grow it into, ‘Well, if you’re not a wing connoisseur, we’ve got so much more there,’” Beeler said.

That includes a large fireworks display, which will involve a “totally unique, 360 degree firework experience that’s set to music and end the day with a BANG!” according to the release.

Beyond the food and fireworks, attendees will enjoy plenty of elite musical acts, including Fireside Collective, Wyatt Ellis and many more. DJ Sterl the Pearl will be on

hand as well, and there will be a Kid’s Zone with inflatables and other activities.

All of it will go to a good cause, too, as the festival has raised more than \$685,000 to date for local East Tennessee charities.

This year’s beneficiaries are the Thompson Cancer Survival Center and Educator Resource Center.

Tickets for this year’s festival go on sale Monday, July 6, at bkwfestival.com.

Once there, people can find a variety of options available: Culinary Experience, VIP Experience (very limited) and Fireworks Experience tickets.

“The festival has just grown over the years,” Beeler said. “It is amazing how much it’s changed. But without the group of people that have helped me, some since its inception, there would be no way.”

“If you give a reason for people to come and show them a good time, and the whole thing is going to a good cause, it’s pretty easy,” he added.

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