

# GENE WATSON FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER

2017 R.O.P.E. ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR—GENE WATSON!

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2017 - VOLUME 53

Dear Friends –

Is it just me or has this year flown by! So many great things happened this year from a #1 for my Gospel single “Help Me” to getting the chance to appear on Country’s Family Reunion with my friend, Joe Nichols. We wrapped up the Gene & Moe Show and by the way, those shows will air again sometime on RFD-TV. I’ll let you know when we find out the air dates for those.

We’re delighted to be closing out this year with the release of my second Gospel album “My Gospel Roots” on December 8th! As many of you already know, the pre-release for this CD has been going on at my website and those of you that pre-ordered should start receiving your autographed copy soon. Thanks to all of you that gave us nice comments on the video we made for the single “Old Roman Soldier”. If you haven’t seen it yet, you can check that out at [www.YouTube.com/GeneWatsonVideos](http://www.YouTube.com/GeneWatsonVideos).

This Gospel CD has been a special one for me. I really thought long and hard on which songs I wanted to record, keeping in mind many of the songs that my family and I sang in our little church with my parents leading us in song at the pulpit. On the back of the CD cover, you’ll see a photo of my parents and there’s also a photo of the actual Jesus Name Mission church with 3 pastors from over 30 years there. There are a few new songs I just wanted to include along with many classics you’ll know and I hope you enjoy my versions of those.

As we close out 2017, please know that I appreciate your continued support for “real” country music. It’s your dedication to this music that will keep it alive and well. The band and I are going to be traveling as much or more in 2018 so we hope we’ll be near your town and you can come out and see us. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**And the winner is.....**



**On October 5th, Gene attended the R.O.P.E. Awards in Nashville (Reunion of Professional Entertainers) at the invitation of Jeannie Seely and her husband, Gene Ward. Gene was surprised and delighted when both he AND Jeannie won the award for Entertainer of the Year. This was the first time in the long history of the awards that there was a tie. Gene said it couldn't be more fitting that he would share this very special award with one of his best friends in the music business, Ms. Jeannie Seely.**



# Highlights from the R.O.P.E. Awards



Jeannie Seely, Mac Wiseman and Gene Watson strike a pose after Jeannie and Gene accept their Entertainer of the Year trophies. Mac Wiseman, honored that same evening for his legendary career, was the upright bass player in the band of country singer Molly O'Day . When Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs left Bill Monroe's band, Wiseman became the guitarist for their new band, the Foggy Mountain Boys . Later he played with Bill Monroe 's Bluegrass Boys and he was also very involved in starting the Country Music Association in Nashville, TN.



Country music legend, Leona Williams, presented the evening's most prestigious award, Entertainer of the Year, to both Gene and Jeannie.



Visiting before the dinner and show began are Gene, Joe Stampley and Springer Mountain Farms President, Gus Arrendale.



Making Gene laugh was Hee Haw star, Roni Stoneman. Roni is the youngest daughter of "Pop" Stoneman , patriarch of the Stoneman Family , one of the most famous family groups in early country music. Roni is also a super talented banjo player, making records for both the bluegrass and country markets.



Gene was delighted to visit with Hall of Famer, Jerry Kennedy. Jerry played guitar on all songs on Gene's "Honky Tonk Crazy" album. Winner of four Grammys , Kennedy's dobro and guitar work is featured on the albums of artists as varied as Elvis Presley , Kris Kristofferson , Bob Dylan , Ringo Starr , Tammy Wynette and Roy Orbison . His dobro work on Jeannie C. Riley 's " Harper Valley PTA " is considered a classic. Kennedy played on or produced nearly all of the country music records of Jerry Lee Lewis. He has produced The Statler Bros., Reba McEntire, Johnny Rodriguez, Tom T. Hall, Connie Smith, Moe Bandy and Roger Miller just to name a few.





# Working Hard in Nashville!



Robby Lynn, host of "Sunday's Kind of Country" TV and Radio show, poses with Gene after they taped the show. Robby told Gene the video debut for "Old Roman Soldier" was the highest to date for his show! Air dates for the TV show will be in February/ March.



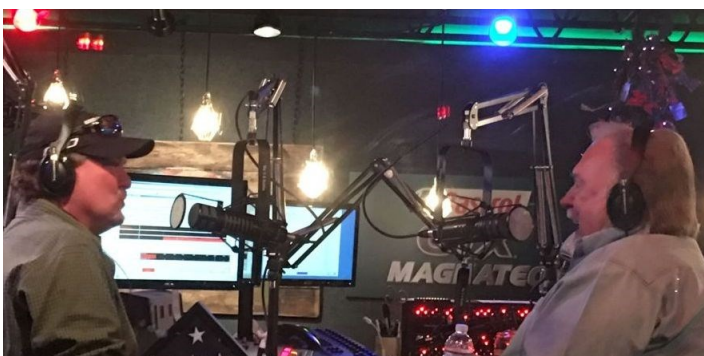
Gene spent a fun afternoon visiting with Devon O'Day of WSM-AM in Nashville where Devon debuted a number of tracks from the new Gospel CD. Devon is a noted songwriter, receiving the prestigious "Million-Airs" award from BMI and has songs recorded by Dolly Parton, Reba McEntire, Hank Williams, Jr., Lee Ann Womack and more. Devon's sister is well known actress, Faith Ford, who starred in the hit TV series "Murphy Brown."



Michael Ray, a self-professed fan of Gene Watson's music, posed with Gene backstage at the Opry. Ray is signed to Warner Music Nashville and his debut single, "Kiss You in the Morning" hit #1 on the current country charts.



Gene performed on the matinee and evening shows for the Grand Ole Opry November 28th.



Gene spent the afternoon before his Opry shows with Country Music hitmaker, Tracy Lawrence. Tracy hosts the classic country show "Honky Tonkin with Tracy Lawrence" and features ONLY classic country. Gene's show will air the weekend of December 8th. You can check the stations where it airs at [www.TracyLawrence.com](http://www.TracyLawrence.com)



## 2017- 2018 Gene Watson Itinerary

Dec.14	Tomball, TX	Mainstreet Crossing
Dec. 28/29	Shipshewana, IN	Blue Gate Theater
<b>2018</b>		
Jan. 6	Hinton, OK	Sugar Creek Casino
Jan. 13	Clifton, TX	Bosque Arts Center
Jan. 26	Grant, OK	Choctaw Event Center (w/Moe Bandy)
Jan. 28 – Feb. 4	The Caribbean	Country's Family Reunion Cruise
Feb. 10	Yuma, AZ	Palms RV Resort
Feb. 17-18	Weirsdale, FL	Orange Blossom Opry
Feb. 19	St. Petersburg, FL	Palladium Theater at St. Petersburg College
Feb. 24	Kansas City, MO	Ameristar Casino
March 3	Hiawassee, GA	Anderson Music Hall (w/Johnny Lee/Ronnie McDowell)
March 10	Bowling Green, KY	Sky Performing Arts Center
March 16 & 17	Scottsburg, IN	Ross Country Jamboree
March 23	Granbury, TX	Granbury Live Theater
March 24	Bristow, OK	Freeland Performing Arts Center
April 14	Dothan, AL	Dothan Civic Center (w/Moe Bandy and Ronnie McDowell)
April 21	Renfro Valley	Renfro Valley Entertainment Center
April 28	Dublin, GA	Dublin Theater
May 4	Lincolnton, GA	Little Roy & Lizzie Festival
May 5	Winchester, OH	Red Barn Theater
May 12	Arlington, TX	Arlington Music Hall
June 15 & 16	Jackpot, NV	Cactus Pete's Horseshoe Casino
July 14	Newkirk, OK	First Council Casino
Sept. 20	Branson, MO	Starlite Theatre (w/Larry's Country Diner crew)
Sept. 21 & 22	Benton, KY	Kentucky Opry
Oct. 4	Bremen, GA	Milltown Music Hall (Thursday show)
Oct. 25	Anderson, SC	Anderson Civic Center
Nov. 10	Irving, TX	Irving Arts Center
Nov. 16	Pigeon Forge, TN	Music City Tonite Theater



# Every Picture Tells A Story



Gene and The Bellamy Brothers posed for this photo after their show October 8th in Lancaster, PA at the American Music Theater. The Bellamy's are known for spreading Country Music globally and are currently performing in Africa and Sri Lanka.



Irish music icon, Daniel O'Donnell, stopped by the Starlite Theatre in Branson to see Gene. Daniel hails from County Donegal in Ireland.



Do you 'reckon this security officer has his uniforms custom made? Gene just had to snap this picture with Officer Adam who was taking good care of everything at the Palace Theater in Corsicana, Texas, on October 14th.



October 7th in Louisburg, NC was a special show to raise funds for a memorial to honor local hero, Sgt. Dillon Baldrige, a Youngsville, NC native, who was killed in action June 10, 2017 while defending his country in Afghanistan. Shown here with the Farewell Party Band are members of Sgt. Baldrige's family.



Longtime Gene fans, Ruth & Charlie Hermann, attended Gene's November 2nd show in Branson, MO. Gene admitted he was partial to the shirts they were wearing in this photo.

# BATTLE ARTIST AGENCY



To book Gene Watson for an event in your area contact:

Rob Battle at Battle Artist Agency at

1-615-368-7433 or by email at: [RBattleArtistAgent@United.net](mailto:RBattleArtistAgent@United.net)

## TRIVIA CONTEST WINNER!

Congratulations to Wayne Bolon of San Luis Obispo, CA, who submitted the winning entry for our last trivia contest question: "Name Gene Watson's first MAJOR recording label." The correct answer: "Capitol Records". For your chance to win an autographed tee shirt, just answer the trivia question sent to Fan Club Members only and send the correct answer to: [GeneWatsonMusic@hotmail.com](mailto:GeneWatsonMusic@hotmail.com).

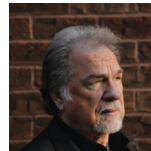
If you are reading this and not a registered member of Gene Watson's Fan Club, just sign up at [www.GeneWatsonMusic.com](http://www.GeneWatsonMusic.com). Only Fan Club members get the Trivia Question!

## Gene Watson Online!



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