IOWA NATIONAL GUARD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES RETURNS

First Concert Features Tribute to Recently Retired Commander

The Iowa National Guard Adjutant General’s summer concert series returns to the historic Camp Dodge pool complex starting May 23rd. The first concert will include a tribute and recognition of the concert series founder, Maj. Gen. Tim Orr, the former commander of the Iowa National Guard, who recently stepped down after serving 10 years as the adjutant general and 41 years in the Iowa National Guard.

This is the ninth consecutive season for the concert series, which is free and open to the public. Seven concerts will be held on Thursday evenings throughout the summer. All concerts start at 7 p.m. No concerts are scheduled for June 13th (enjoy Johnston Green Days) or July 4th (Happy Independence Day!).

The series includes the classic rock group Cloud Ten featuring Heath Alan on May 23rd, The Candymakers on May 30th (team spirit night), Gladys Kravitz on June 6th (classic car night) and Red Dirt Renegade on June 20th. The 34th Army Band’s Sidewinders group will play pop and classic rock on Military Heritage Night (June 27 – wear Red, White and Blue!). Faculty Lounge will perform on July 11th (Suicide Awareness & Remembrance night) and fan favorite Abby Normal will close the series on July 18th with timeless rock n’ roll in honor of first responders and the city of Johnston’s 50th anniversary.
Concessions will be available, but coolers, picnic baskets and tailgating are also welcome. Please bring your lawn chairs. In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be moved indoors to the Camp Dodge Freedom Center.

For more information about the concert series go to: www.iowanationalguard.com.

Be sure to “like” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/IowaNationalGuard and follow us on Twitter @IowaNatGuard and Instagram @IowaNationalGuard for concert updates and the latest Iowa National Guard news.

Visitors can enter Camp Dodge for concerts through either the main gate at 7105 NW 70th Ave., Johnston or the historic East Gate at 7700 NW Beaver Drive, Johnston. Photo identification (a driver's license is acceptable) is required for admittance to Camp Dodge for individuals 16 years of age and older.

Note that ALL motorcyclists (drivers and passengers) on Camp Dodge are required by Department of Defense policy to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) consisting of helmet, eye protection (full-face shield or goggles or sunglasses), gloves, long pants, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, and over-the-ankle footwear while operating on Camp Dodge. Motorcyclists without the required PPE may park their motorcycles at the NW Beaver Drive gate turnaround and walk to the pool complex (approximately three blocks).

*A cornerstone of Camp Dodge history, the Camp Dodge pool complex was built in 1922 to promote health and fitness for Iowa National Guard recruits and Soldiers after World War I. The Camp Dodge pool complex was part of a post-wide plan created by the Des Moines landscape architectural firm of Pearse, Robinson, and Sprague.*

Costing $87,000 ($1,152,239.82 in today’s dollars) to construct, it became clear to the Iowa National Guard leadership that the Camp Dodge pool complex could serve more than the members of the Iowa National Guard. In the mid-1920s, the Des Moines Playground Association stepped up to manage the pool’s operation and did so until the pool closed in 2002.

Believed to be the world’s largest outdoor filtered swimming pool at the time of its construction, the pool was built to hold 2,000 bathers and took nearly three million gallons of water to fill. As part of the pool’s long and rich history, President Ronald Reagan swam at the pool often during his tenure as a sportscaster at WHO Radio in Des Moines in the 1930s, and the pool house shower area was used by Des Moines-area residents during the flood of 1993, when the city of Des Moines lost its water plant.

Renovation of the pool complex was completed in 2011 as part of a $1.7 million adaptive reuse initiative executed by the federal government, the State of Iowa, and the Iowa National Guard. Today, the Camp Dodge pool complex provides indoor and outdoor meeting spaces to include conference rooms and dining space, both for military and public use. The pool complex was
placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995; the multi-functional campus preserves historically-significant structures such as the pool pavilion, Works Progress Administration-built concession stand, and the swimming pool rim. The renovation project also added outdoor seating areas, a pool house porch extension, concession stand patio, reviewing stand, and additional parking.

These new elements draw from the historic materials, style and scale already in place to create a unique, cohesive campus. The Spanish-influenced architecture is readily evident throughout the Camp Dodge pool complex structures.

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For questions concerning this release as well as additional information about the operations, training and activities of the Iowa Army and Air National Guard, please contact Col. Michael Wunn, Iowa National Guard Public Affairs Officer, by email at michael.a.wunn.mil@mail.mil or (515) 252-4582 (office) or (515) 971-6385 (cell).

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Camp Dodge
9th Annual Summer Concert Series

FREE Music, Sun & Fun

May 23 - Cloud Ten ft. Heath Allen
Memorial Day & Maj. Gen. Orr Recognition Night

May 30 - Candymakers
Represent your fave sports team

June 6 - Gladys Kravitz
Car Show

June 20 - Red Dirt Renegade

June 27 - Sidewinders
Wear Red, White & Blue

July 11 - Faculty Lounge
Suicide Awareness & Remembrance

July 18 - Abby Normal
Johnston 50th & First Responder Night

All concerts start at 7 p.m. on Thursdays at the Pool Complex

Concessions will be available. Lawn Chairs, Coolers & Picnic Baskets are welcome.