



**50th ANNUAL
PATRIOTIC
CELEBRATION**



JUNE 28 & 29, 2019
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS USA

W E I L C O M E



Celebrate
our heritage

Honor
our veterans and active
military members

Thank
God for our true freedom
in Jesus Christ



Bruce Erickson, director 1970-83



Military featured on Summerwood stage



Otis Skillings, director 1984-89



Kristyn Thor, director 2002

THANK YOU for joining us tonight, and thanks to everyone who has helped keep the Patriotic Celebration going all these years. We are especially pleased to welcome back several past Chorale and Orchestra members joining us for this special celebration.

A free-will offering collected tonight benefits three local nonprofits that help our veterans:

• **OSCAR MIKE FOUNDATION** is dedicated to keeping veterans on the move in all aspects of life. They create unique experiences for injured veterans while helping them transition and adapt to civilian life. The Oscar Mike Militia competes as the only all-veteran wheelchair rugby team in local, national and international tournaments.

• **BVL - BOWLERS TO VETERANS LINK (Brightening Veterans Lives)** was founded in 1942 by bowlers who wanted to boost the spirits of active-duty troops. Today, BVL has grown to a national network of volunteers. For veterans, BVL dollars pick up where government subsidies leave off. They purchase sports equipment, provide music and arts programs, sponsor holiday parties and more. BVL supports a program that provides Rockford area veterans with free transportation to the Madison VA Hospital. For active-duty troops in war zones, BVL sends deluxe care packages that even include a portable bowling lane.

• **VETERANS DROP-IN CENTER**, at 1539 South Fourth St., Rockford, provides a safe, supportive and positive social environment where veterans and their families, with local veterans service organizations, can give and receive help transitioning into and continuing to adapt to post-service life. The center offers free of charge to veterans: lunch and dinner, haircuts, a TV lounge, onsite meetings and programs with VA and Vet Center representatives, referrals to area veterans' resources, computer classes and more.



PROGRAM

PROCESSION OF OUR PATRIOTS

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

Color Guard: Winnebago County Sheriff's Department
and Rockford Police Department

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"

PROCLAMATIONS

"BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC"

First Free Chorale and Orchestra with
the Alumni Choir and Orchestra

BRUCE ERICKSON, DIRECTOR 1970-1983

"PATRIOTIC MEDLEY"

Dale Countryman, Manny Livesay, Jo Muir, Tracy Palmer
Arr. By Rev. Bruce Erickson

OTIS SKILLINGS, DIRECTOR 1984-1989

"AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

Keith Holmertz, Howard Hulme, John Johnson, Mike Piippo,
Amy Sanderson, Ruth Snyder, Bethany Timmons, Kristyn Thor

DOUG THIESEN, DIRECTOR 1990-1998

"GOD BLESS THE U.S.A."

Solo: Rick Snodgrass

RENEE COOPER, DIRECTOR 1999-2001

KRISTYN THOR, DIRECTOR 2002

"BOOGIE WOOGIE BUGLE BOY"

Hadassah Cooper, Renee Cooper, Amy Sanderson,
Katie Jo Sanderson, Bethany Timmons, Kristyn Thor

ERIC WALKER, DIRECTOR 2003-2007

"FREEDOM'S NEVER FREE"

Soloists: Kim Carlson, Rebekah Larson, Karli Smith

RENEE COOPER, DIRECTOR 2008-PRESENT

"STARS AND STRIPES" / "SALUTE TO THE ARMED FORCES"

POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE

Commander Timothy J. Myers, USN

"TAPS"

Jim Martindale, Cornet

OFFERING

"CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN SPIRITUALS"

First Free Orchestra

"IT'S STILL THE CROSS"

Soloists: Mike Hayes, John Johnson, Steve Kewish, Kevin Seuring

DEVOTIONAL

Pastor Luke Uran

"A CANDLE IN THE DARKNESS"

Soloists: Jeff Rohl, Ruth Snyder

"GOD BLESS AMERICA"

"MARCHES OF FREEDOM"

First Free Orchestra

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Please join us for dessert in Fellowship Hall past the lobby,
and visit with representatives from local veterans organizations.



Capitol Set, 1981



Eric Walker, director 2003-07



Renee Cooper,
director 2008-present



Early program art



Hands held high, 1988

CREDITS



FIRST FREE CHORALE

Dianna Akers, Peggy Bates, Sally Bell, Rachel Berg, Andrea Bergman, Ellen Borseth, Kim Carlson, Hadassah Cooper, Dale Countryman, Jacob Countryman, Kristi Countryman, Ruth Countryman, Ann Dahlgren, Elaine Drake, Gary Erickson, Robin Fisher, Paul Geddes, Gordon Gorman, Chase Gould, Mindy Gould, Erika Guenzler, Ruth Guenzler, Mike Hayes, Rebecca Higgs, Keith Holmertz, Howard Hulme, John Johnson, Keith Johnson, Chuck Kearns, Dave Kersten, Steve Kewish, Anna Kwan, Rebekah Larson, Janet Lee, Manny Livesay, Bart Macomber, Candice McCulloch, Pat McNair, Marilyn Meyers, Donna Miller, Jean Moates, Linda Moya, Jo Muir, Denise Myers, Tracy Palmer, Mike Piippo, Sasha Pogwizd, Teresa Pyszka, Lynda Remling, Mary Jo Roach, Jeff Rohl, Amy Sanderson, Katie Jo Sanderson, Chuck Schlueter, Kevin Seuring, Karli Smith, Rick Snodgrass, Robbin Snodgrass, Ruth Snyder, Althea Spates, Bonnie Speck, Andrew Stacy, Judy Staples, Marcia Steely, Mike Thomas, Brian Thor, Kristyn Thor, Bethany Timmons, Art Upmann, Shelly Vandervort, Al Wagner, Donna Wernberg, Kari White, Steve Wikstrom, Carol Wilkins, Wes Wittmus

FIRST FREE ORCHESTRA AND GUEST MUSICIANS*

Flute – Linda Confer, Natalie Lang*

Oboe – Sue Getts*

Clarinet – Katie Lang*, Sue Puetz

Alto Saxophone – Paul Smith

Tenor Saxophone – Kathy Forbes

French Horn – Dick Hammond, Mike Lang*

Trumpet – Dean Loy, Jim Martindale, Dietmar Puetz

Trombone – Phil Bell*, Aaron Confer*, Cary Sheley*

Tuba – Tom Bleed

Percussion – Jim Harsevoort, Katrina McIntosh, Reed Strutzenberg*, Joe Wellnitz*

Violin – Cindy Jensen, Vicki Peterson*, Beth Anne Swanson, Beth Vesta*

Cello – Jill Jackson*, Janis Johnson*

String Synthesizer – Cindy Hall

Harp – Nanette Felix, Fiona Hunt*

Bass Guitar – Nathan Fry

Piano – Karen Anderson, Amy Sanderson

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Lead Pastor – Pastor Luke Uran

Classic Worship Ministries Director – Renee Cooper

Technical Director – David Peterson

Assistant Technical Director/Video Production – Tom Doherty

Communications Director/Graphic Design – Nathan McDonald

Worship Ministries Administrative Assistant – Amy Sanderson

Production Team – Karen Anderson, Kristyn Thor, Howard Hulme, Mike Thomas

Narrator – Craig Thomson

POW/MIA Remembrance – Commander Timothy J. Myers, USN

Tim grew up at First Free Rockford and is the son of Chorale member Denise and Tom Myers. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2000. Today he pilots F-18 fighter jets and has been stationed overseas for several years. This summer Tim, along with his wife, Shannon, and their children, are moving back to the U.S. He will become commander of TOPGUN School at Fallon, Nevada.

PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION HISTORY

July 15, 1970 – Bruce Erickson, Minister of Music, leads the Adult Choir, Fellowship Male Chorus and Young Folk in presenting the first Patriotic program at the Sinnissippi Bandshell.

1981 – Patriotic Celebration moves to the newly constructed SummerWood Amphitheater.

1984-1989 – Otis Skillings, Minister of Music

1990-1998 – Doug Thiesen, Minister of Music

1999-2001 – Renee Cooper, Director of Music Ministries

2002 – Kristyn Thor, Interim Chorale Director

2003-2007 – Eric Walker, Director of Worship Ministries

2008-present – Renee Cooper, Director of Classic Worship

2013 – Patriotic Celebration moves inside to the newly renovated sanctuary of First Free Rockford



2223 N. Mulford Road
Rockford, IL 61107
815-877-7046
firstfreerockford.org



Sunday Service Times

Main Campus | 2223 N. Mulford Road
8:30 a.m. – Classic Service (choir/orchestra)
10:30 a.m. – Contemporary Service (rock band)
10:30 a.m. – Chapel Venue (acoustic)

Mission Venue | 715 W. State Street
11:00 a.m. – Main Hall (acoustic)

Fairhaven Venue | 3470 N. Alpine Road
10:20 a.m. – Chapel (piano/organ)

Live Streaming | live.firstfreerockford.org
8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

