



G4V 50 for 50 Benefit Show
Last Exit Live 12/1/2018



Phoenix Benefit Show to Help Veterans Through the Power of Music

Dec. 1 Concert Will Arm Veterans with Guitars

PHOENIX - Christmas will come early for some deserving veterans thanks to a Dec. 1 benefit show that aims to provide 50 guitars to veterans who use music to overcome post-traumatic stress disorder.

The show will raise money for the local chapters of Guitars for Vets. G4V supports veterans by providing guitar lessons and ultimately putting a new guitar into the hands of each veteran who graduates through the program. At the show, 100 percent of ticket sales will go to the cause.

Iconic Tempe musician Brian Blush of The Refreshments and his new band, Murphy's Outlaw, will be joined Dec. 1 by Southwest by Midnight, Jim Bachmann and the Day Drinkers, Marc Norman, '80s and '90s cover band Rockhard, veteran graduates of the G4V program, and more. The show at Last Exit Live in downtown Phoenix starts at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6 p.m.

The evening is the work of East Valley resident Chris Kracht, who wanted to do something special for his 50th birthday.

“All of this would not be possible without the founders of Guitars for Vets, the founder of the Phoenix chapter, and all of the bands who jumped at the chance to support our cause,” Kracht said. “A friend's kid gave \$7! Every dollar counts and helps us make a difference in the lives of veterans.”

His goal is to raise enough money to fund 50 new guitars for the program; every time \$200 is raised a veteran is covered through the program.

Music can be a lifeline for veterans, according to G4V. More than half of the 2.6 million veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars struggle with physical and mental challenges. As many as 22 veterans commit suicide every day. Guitar lessons offer opportunities for self-expression and, as important, positive human interaction.

Kracht, a pilot and amateur musician, is thankful for the opportunity to serve veterans who have served the country.

“When you have something you are passionate about and can use that to help people as deserving as our veterans, the effort put forth is minor compared with their service to our country,” Kracht said. “I am so happy to help.”

This isn't the first time Kracht turned his birthday into a charity drive. His 40th birthday raised money for a local music non-profit and included performances by local bands as well as an All-Star band that included members of Quiet Riot, Guns N' Roses, and A Flock of Seagulls.

Get tickets now at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guitars-for-vets-50-for-50-ben...>

Last Exit Live is at 717 S. Central Ave., in downtown Phoenix, 85004.

For media interviews, contact Chris Fiscus at (602) 541-6254.