

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Governor Mike Huckabee is Honorary Chair of HolidayFest 2018

Hendersonville, TN (April 13, 2018) ...,The Board of HolidayFest announced today that Mike Huckabee, host of the TV show “**Huckabee**” on TBN each weekend, taped here in Hendersonville, TN, with a live studio audience full of music, entertainment, news and fun (www.huckabbeetix.tv) will be the Honorary Chair for this year’s HolidayFest Events beginning in September.

Huckabee is a Fox News contributor, NY Times best-selling author of 12 books, and a frequent speaker for corporate, civic, and non-profit groups all over the world. He was the 44th Governor of Arkansas from 1996 until 2007, becoming one of the longest serving Governors in his state’s history. He left a legacy of tax cuts, job creation, the reconstruction of his state’s road system, K-16 education reform, and a nationally heralded and duplicated health initiative that focused on prevention. His administration fought long-standing corruption in the state’s political machine, resulting in numerous indictments and convictions of powerful legislators and other elected officials. He ran in 2008 and 2016 for President, finishing 2nd in the Republican primary in 2008.

Governing Magazine named him as one of its “Public Officials of the Year” for 2005, and Time Magazine honored him as one of the five best governors in America. He served as the Chairman of the prestigious National Governors Association as well as the Education Commission of the States, the Southern Governors Association, and the Interstate Oil and Gas Commission. He has been nationally recognized for his advocacy of the arts in education and raises money to provide musical instruments for children.

Huckabee, an avid musician since age 11, is a bass player and often joins guest artists on his weekly television show, having played with Willie Nelson, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Toby Keith, the late George Jones, and many others. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and music. He was named one of the “25 Most Influential People” for Conservation by Outdoor Life Magazine and was named "Man of the Year" by the American Sportfishing Association in 1997. The former governor and his wife, Janet, spend time now in Florida and Arkansas (and now Hendersonville) and have three grown children – John Mark Huckabee, David Huckabee and his wife, Lauren, and Sarah Sanders and her husband, Bryan – and six grandchildren.

HolidayFest, in its 12th year, brings together over 24 events for Sumner County, all benefiting local charities. This past year the Oktoberfest benefited Mary’s Magical Place, and a new event, House on Haunted Hill Costume Party benefitted the Salvus Center, The Garlands & Glitter Fashion Show benefitted Sumner Teen Center and the Appalachian Dinner benefitted Historic Rock Castle. The Annual Santa Breakfast benefitted Bows and Ballcaps and will be the same again this year and the Annual St. Nicholas Ball benefitted Make-A-Wish of Middle Tennessee. These are only a few of the charities who benefitted this past year from the many events. All can be found at www.Holidayfesttn.org

President of HolidayFest Larry Phillips said. “Having such a legendary man as our honorary chair and the possibility of having him serve as our Grand Marshall for the Annual Christmas Parade is very

exciting. We hope with his support to raise the most money ever with the many events and all you be sure to buy your tickets by visiting our website at www.holidayfesttn.org.

About HolidayFest

HolidayFest is an annual festival that brings together the entire community – its people, businesses, government, the arts, and service organizations - to celebrate the spirit of the season and to benefit local charities of Sumner County. Officially launched in 2007, HolidayFest builds on 10 years of bringing Holiday spirit to the community with events. The Events begin in November and go until January, and Sumner County plays host to thousands of visitors at this year's festivities. Visitors enjoy an abundance of entertainment, shops, restaurants, light displays, and holiday cheer. www.HolidayFestTN.org