



**FLORIDA  
CHAUTAUQUA  
CENTER**

*"Florida's Historic Chautauqua"*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Ronnie McDowell to Perform in DeFuniak Springs Aug. 26** *National recording star assists Florida Chautauqua Center in fundraising efforts*

DeFuniak Springs, FL – National recording star Ronnie McDowell and his band, the Rhythm Kings, will present a special benefit performance in DeFuniak Springs on Thursday evening, August 26, at the old Walton County High School auditorium. Tickets are \$25 each, and all proceeds will benefit the Florida Chautauqua Center, Inc., a non-profit organization established in 1993 to orchestrate and host the official Florida Chautauqua Assembly.

“We are so grateful to Ronnie McDowell and his team for agreeing to support the Florida Chautauqua Center and our upcoming 2011 Assembly,” says Dennis Ray, Chairman of the Board, who approached McDowell about supporting the official Florida Chautauqua Assembly several months ago. “Mr. McDowell's national travel schedule is extremely tight, and to bring such a high-profile singer to our DeFuniak Springs community is extremely rare. We can't express our gratitude to him enough for helping support our historic Assembly.”

Ronnie McDowell charted a string of hit singles and albums for the Epic label between 1979 and 1986. Every single release with the exception of just one became a Top 10 Hit including the chart toppers "Older Women" and "You're Gonna Ruin My Bad Reputation." Other hits during his Epic years included "Watchin' Girls Go By," "Personally," "You Made A Wanted Man Of Me," "All Tied Up," and "In A New York Minute."

Moving to Curb Records in 1986, his current label to date, McDowell scored a Top 10 hit with "It's Only Make Believe," a duet with Conway Twitty on what was Twitty's breakthrough hit from 1958. Two years later Ronnie teamed up with Jerry Lee Lewis for a rocking duet that McDowell wrote titled, "You're Never Too Old To Rock N' Roll." He also recorded yet another Top 10 hit with his version of the pop standard "Unchained Melody," which also became a #1 country music video. His entertaining abilities soared and he began to draw larger crowds. He started appearing in larger venues and touring with artists such as Conway Twitty, Tammy Wynette and Loretta Lynn before headlining his own shows.

Ronnie McDowell is still constantly in demand on the road and he tours relentlessly with his band the Rhythm Kings. Additionally, he often tours with Elvis Presley's original sidemen Scotty Moore and D.J. Fontana along with Millie Kirkham and The Jordanaires staging a tribute to Elvis Presley's music.

For more information about the August 26 performance in DeFuniak Springs by Ronnie McDowell, call the Florida Chautauqua Center office at (850) 892-7613 or log on to their website at

[www.FloridaChautauquaAssembly.org](http://www.FloridaChautauquaAssembly.org).