

Military Family Benefit Variety Show Saturday



Beatles cover group Paperback Writer will be the headliner for San Clemente Military Family Outreach's annual Variety Show.

Photo: Courtesy

By Robert Crittendon

The theme of this week's 7th annual Variety Show fundraiser Applause is a foregone conclusion, considering the overflowing music and comedy acts to be presented at the event sponsored by San Clemente Military Family Outreach, Robert Crittendon said. The Oct. 25 show, which has been a crowd-pleaser since its inception, presents a 2014 playbill that will feature Beatles tribute band, "Paperback Writer." Their Beatles renditions are top-rated by Disney Entertainment, and have been acclaimed internationally. On the comedy side, the spotlight will be on standup Robert G. Lee, who has been Southern California's leading "warm up" comedian for crowds attending studio filming of over 1,000 Los Angeles television shows. In addition to these nationally known acts, there are selected finalists from the "Stars of Tomorrow" high school vocal competition in Orange County, and the "Singing TV Guy" Mike Chamberlain, television news anchor and singer with 3,000 appearances under his belt.

The beneficiaries of the stage performance at the San Clemente Community Center are low income Marine and Navy families in north Camp Pendleton's San Onofre housing. SCMFO serves as a financial safety net for families in emergency circumstances, providing thousands of dollars for food, clothing, diapers, infant formula, school supplies, gas, car repair and other unexpected expenses. In addition, the local nonprofit presents year-around "morale events" such as baby showers and tea socials for military wives, as well as seasonal projects that include a giveaway of 1,000 turkeys at Thanksgiving and "Thank a Family" gift giving at Christmas. Many of these families are below the U.S. poverty level and currently face proposed cutbacks of commissary services, reduced housing maintenance and increased cost of health insurance.

The variety show is one of only two annual SCMFO-sponsored fundraising programs, the other being a summer mail campaign. Tickets to the show are priced at \$25 for general theater-style seating and are tax-deductible. Proceeds go to support the charity's assistance programs for military families. Tickets are available at the door on event night and online at www.militaryfamilyoutreach.com. They are also on sale at the office of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 2001 Calle Frontera, in San Clemente. The Community Center is located at the corner of Avenida Del Mar and Seville in downtown San Clemente. Show time is 7 p.m. and doors will open at 6:15 p.m.