



Bond County Bicentennial Committee  
Bond County Historical Society  
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## The Ides of March Featuring Jim Peterik to Headline Day Two of the Bond County Bicentennial!

The Ides of March, featuring Jim Peterik, one of the most successful song writers of the 1980's, will headline day two of the Bond County Bicentennial Sunday, July 2, 2017 in downtown Greenville, on the Bradford National Bank Main Stage.

Bicentennial entertainment chairman Randy Alderman said, "While the names may be foreign to some, the songs certainly are not. Jim Peterik, who formed the Ides of March way back when, took a little break in the 1980's to form Survivor, co-writing and performing many of their smash hits, including the 1982 Grammy winning *Eye of the Tiger*, as well as penning many hits for .38 Special and for other bands such as Sammy Hagar and The Beach Boys. The two hour Ides of March set will be familiar music, performed in part by the guy who wrote the songs." He added, "This band, which features the original four members, and the music they perform, will certainly be a highlight of the year for those attending this free concert."

John Coleman, Bicentennial Chairman, said, "It's an honor to have this legendary band perform for our Bicentennial celebration. Their high-energy show filled with songs we all know and love will delight and entertain everyone."

This isn't a sedate "oldies" act-much the opposite actually. In concert, the Ides of March remain a vital, powerhouse rock and roll band whose typical 90-minute concert usually lasts two hours, and the encores are always the strongest songs of the night. The secret of the band's longevity might rest in the fact that they all have remained best friends throughout the years, with not a hint of ego-trip to be found. This is especially unique because singer Jim Peterik rose to the top of the heap with his band Survivor (*Eye Of The Tiger*, *The Search is Over*, *High on You*) during the 1980's. Jim also co-wrote the multi-platinum hits for Southern favorites .38 Special (*Hold On Loosely*, *Fantasy Girl*, *Rockin' Into the Night*). When Survivor ran its course, Jim returned "home" to the Ides of March, and the band never looked back. While many "vintage" groups supplement their sets playing "cover versions" of the hits of others, the Ides celebrate Jim's "extracurricular" hits like they were "homegrown", which they, in some respects, are.

The two-day Bond County Bicentennial celebration in downtown Greenville will be held July 1 and 2, 2017. It was previously announced that classic rockers Head East will headline day one of the celebration. Coleman added, "In addition to the headlining acts, The Bond County Bicentennial will feature a wide variety of musical entertainment throughout the weekend. Plus, the Family Fun Area returns, compliments of First National Bank, and a large parade is in the works."

For more information on the Bond County Bicentennial sponsorship opportunities, and for a history of the County, visit, <http://www.bondcountyhistorical.org>, and follow the day-to-day announcements on the Bond County Bicentennial Facebook page.

### **Ides of March History....**

On October 16th, 1964; a basement in Berwyn, Illinois played host to four schoolboys, guitars, drums, and their dreams. From that meeting sprang platinum hits, Grammy awards, and a common bond that has lasted ever since. The IDES OF MARCH mark a rare milestone in any partnership, let alone rock and roll; they have remained together, with all the original members intact for fifty years.

Best remembered for their 1970 smash "Vehicle", the IDES (or their lead singer and songwriter Jim Peterik) have had hit records in each of the decades since that humble beginning. From the Brit-meets-Chicago Soul of their 1966 debut "You Wouldn't Listen" to the rousing sports anthem "Finally Next Year" that cheered the Cubs throughout their red-hot 2003 season, the IDES have combined shimmering vocal harmonies with their trademark driving brass section to forge a sound that is timeless and unforgettable.

At their 50th year together, the accomplishments and accolades continue to accumulate. The band was honored by their hometown of Berwyn, Illinois by declaring the street running in front of their High School "Ides Of March Way". The Ides have sung their thrilling rendition of our National Anthem for The Chicago Cubs, Bears, Bulls, Fire and White Sox with over 35 visits to Comiskey Park/US Cellular field. (The Ides sang the last home game at the "old" Comiskey Park, and the first night game at the "new" one!).

The Ides tunes have never left the airwaves on classic rock and oldies radio, but with the rise of music and dance competition TV shows, "Vehicle" has found a brand new audience—most notably on "American Idol" where Bo Bice rode the song to the final show, which led to his version earning the song another Platinum Award to accompany the original. You can also hear "Vehicle" regularly on commercial soundtracks, and it is in regular rotation on the playlists all of the nightly talk shows' house bands.

The Ides "Vehicle" remains in overdrive, with no signs of slowing down. The band is hotter than ever, thrilling audiences in every city they visit. They are true gentlemen, taking the time to greet every fan who wants a picture or autograph after the show, leaving good vibes in their wake. At most every show, tales are heard of folks driving hundreds of miles just to attend their concerts. They say they don't make 'em like they used to, and that is certainly true for the Ides, who were "made" in a different time, but choose not to mellow with age, but forge ahead on a path of progress. You'll see as many Gen-X and Gen-Y denizens rocking and dancing at an Ides show as Baby Boomers. Great music and great performance have no expiration or "sell-by" date. The Vehicle rolls on!