



SILKS IN THE BLUEGRASS GALA IS MOVING TO DERBY EVE

Operation Open Arms, will hold their annual event this year on Friday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the ballroom of the Crown Plaza Hotel. Operation Open Arms, a charity founded in 2001 by Cathy and Irv Bailey, provides care and a secure home environment for children of incarcerated mothers. As always, the post Oaks day event includes a full program of 4-course dinner, drinks, key-note speaker and dancing into the night. New to the event this year is an **offered lounge ticket**, which includes an open bar, dancing and light snacks, after the dinner program concludes.

Every year, the organization presents an Operation Open Arms Hero Award, and the 2017 award will go to Purple Heart recipient, **Sergeant Daniel Casara**. In 2005, an antitank mine flipped Danny's M-113 armored personnel carrier in Baghdad, killing two of his teammates and crushing Danny's legs. Doctors asked Danny if he wanted to save his legs. Responding to the doctors, Danny replied, "Yes - I came into this world with two legs and I'm going to leave with two legs." It has taken twenty-four surgeries and continued physical therapy for him to learn to walk again. In 2005, President George W. Bush awarded Danny Casara the Purple Heart in a ceremony at the White House.

<http://nation.foxnews.com/2017/03/02/hannity-interview-purple-heart-recipient-shares-his-story-george-w-bush>

While Danny will be the award recipient, he will also provide the key note speech during the dining portion of the event. After dinner and the program conclude, the number one rated dance band of the South, **THE ATLANTA SHOWSTOPPERS**, (12-piece band) will return to a show-stopping experience with great tunes from Motown to sounds of the 70s, 80's, 90's to the present. After their performance at last year's event, attendees called them the BEST DANCE BAND OF THE WEEKEND!

We are also pleased to announce that Dianne and George Timmering will serve as this year's Silks in the Bluegrass Co-Chairs.

To purchase tickets to Silks of the Bluegrass, visit: <https://oparms.givezooks.com/events/silks-in-the-bluegrass-2017>. For more information on the event of Operation Open Arms, visit <http://www.oparms.org>, <https://facebook.com/OperationOpenArms>, or <http://twitter.com/OpOpenArms>