

## THREE HOTS AND A COT BENEFIT SHOW

Rich Cislak, guest speaker John O'Malley and Jessica Findley, with the birthday cake for John



Christina Anderson, Loretta Anderson, Jessica Findley, Sandra Manatane and Lynette Simpson



TJ Zito Jr., JD Simpson and Vince Martell



Vince Martell with retired Gen. David Burford



Clifford Easton (WW II Royal Navy veteran) with Vince Martell



Russ T. Blades, Vince Martell, Peg Pearl, David Burford and Pete Bremy



A walk/fun run at East Lake Park Aug. 27 and a concert that afternoon with legendary guitarist **Vince Martell** at WorkPlay benefited Three Hots and A Cot.

Vince is the lead guitarist for Vanilla Fudge, formed in the 1960s. He started playing the guitar while serving in the U.S. Navy 1960-64.

A biker, Vinnie learned about the work of Three Hots and a Cot through an area motorcyclist in Vets Rock, an organization that gives benefit concerts.

Vince was just back from performing in Poland with Vanilla Fudge when he made the trip to Birmingham to help raise money for homeless veterans in Birmingham. Coming with him were **Peg Martell (Peg Pearl)**, **Pete Bremy**, also with Vanilla Fudge, and drummer **Russ T. Blades**. They spent hours with veterans and volunteers at the Clay Veterans Center in Center Point and gave a fantastic benefit concert the next day.

"For those of you who have not heard Vince play the 'Star Spangled-Banner' — your life is not complete. When he was done, there were tears in many eyes," Three Hots and a Cot executive director **JD Simpson** said.

"The music kept coming. Peg's angelic voice crooned 'Over the Rainbow' to many misty eyes."

Vince had time for everyone — from private to general.

Also performing were **Zach Doss** and Kentucky's Finest, **Todd Simpson** and **Mojo Child**, and **Beyond Human**.

Some sending auction items were **Rosanne Cash**, the **Les Paul** family, the band **America**, **Gary Puckett**, **Spanky and Our Gang**, **Rob Reiner**, **Sally Struthers**, **Henry Winkler**, **Jay** and the Americans and others.

**TJ Zito Jr.** of Rhythm N Motion was the auctioneer. Guest speaker was retired Gen. **David Burford**, Army National Guard.

The Birmingham Women's Junior Chamber of Commerce hosted both events. Among those planning the benefit were current president **Patsy Sandefer** and past president **Jessica Findley**.

**John O'Malley**, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and president of Strategic Visions Inc., was the speaker at the East Lake Park event.

A surprise for John was a belated 21st birthday party and cake with 21 candles. He had been fighting in Vietnam on his 21st birthday.