

TULSA WORLD

and Somalia.

Funke said he's "the first DJ that the government has ever sent out on tour for the troops."

Initially, Funke considered his personal safety after being offered the dates in the Middle East and Somalia, but he couldn't pass up the opportunity, he said.

"That was obviously in the back of my head, but there's no other way I'm ever going to witness this firsthand," he said. "You see it on TV, or whatever, but I'll go see it for myself and go play for the troops."

Don't misunderstand, Funke said playing the shows isn't a matter of whether he supports the war, or not.

"You don't have to choose sides," he said. "You're just showing support for people who have volunteered. Whether there's a war or not, that's the first line of defense for your country."

Suede's doors open at 9 p.m. Funke goes on stage around 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$5.

— M.G.

## A class act

A benefit concert plays at 7 p.m. Friday at the Muskogee Civic Center, 425 Boston St., for the **Oklahoma School for the Blind**, featuring two country artists and former **Tulsan Becky Wright**.

**Wright**, a gospel singer who organized the show, wrote in an e-mail that the proceeds from the concert will go to technology upgrades for blind students' dor-

mitories.

"Most of these students live on campus all week because they live all over the state and then they go home on weekends,"

**Wright** said.

**Tommy Brandt** and **Rory Hoffman**, who is blind, will also play the event. All three are regulars in the national Christian Country music and gospel scene.

**Wright** and **Brandt** will also sing a duet of a song they wrote together, **Wright** said. The two sing "Child of my Heart" on a CD compilation of Christian artists including **Steven Curtis Chapman**.

One of the school's students, 16-year-old pianist **Alex Myers**, will also perform, **Wright** said.

For tickets, go to [www.muskogetickets.com](http://www.muskogetickets.com) or call (918) 684-6363. For more information, visit [www.blindschoolbash.com](http://www.blindschoolbash.com).

— M.E.



**Wright**

## Special man, special song

**Ed Martin** "was the kind of man that good men talk about," gospel singer **David Phelps** proclaims in his emotionally-charged ballad, "Legacy of Love."

And "the way he showed his faith was how he lived it out."

**Phelps**, who is known for his many years with the **Gaither**

**Vocal Band** and his solo career, always called the volunteer fireman "the Mother Teresa right down the street."

"He did all the little things," **Phelps** said in a recent telephone interview. "He was there helping everybody out — never was asked to do it, he just was always there."

When a heart attack killed **Martin** at age 53, **Phelps** wrote "Legacy of Love" in remembrance of the man who taught him "all the things that really matter in this life."

What really matters to **Phelps**, he said, isn't applause — it's his wife and four children.

"At the end of my life, what's going to make a difference is how I have affected my children's lives, and how I have been faithful to my wife and how I have reached out to my neighbors when they are in need," he said. "And that is Christianity where the rubber meets the road."

"Legacy of Love" is featured on **Phelps'** latest studio release "Life is a Church," and "Legacy of Love" is the title track of **Phelps'** new concert DVD, which features a video homage to **Martin**.

To hear "Legacy of Love" in concert, **Phelps** will perform Thursday night at the Church at Battle Creek, 3025 N. Aspen Ave., in Broken Arrow.

The show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and \$25 in advance, available at LifeWay Christian Stores until 3 p.m.; \$20 general admission and \$30 for artist's circle tickets, at the door