

## SATURDAY CONCERT Big & Rich Continued from Page 6

little George Strait” is the recipe for some “Funk In The Country.” The action moves uptown on “No Sleep,” where “Big & Rich’s gonna play” until dawn and probably beyond. Far horizons promise adventure and escape on “The Long Way.” As if there were any doubt, they proclaim “We Came To Rock” with a drive and sing-along chorus that was built to kill. And that girl over there near the bar? The one you’re thinking about feeding a line or buying a drink? Don’t do it — as Kenny and John warn, that ain’t “Smoke In Her Eyes.”

There’s also some things you wouldn’t have heard them do 10 years ago, like “My Son,” a father’s unapologetically direct and tender expression of love. (Both guys have sons, so this one comes from more than one heart.) And what better testimony to love growing through years spent together than “Turns Me On”?

The sound and soul of Did It For The Party, then, is a true milestone: Bigger & Richer than anything these guys have done before while also reflecting the current stages of their lives. Lots of water has coursed down the Cumberland River since Rich made his first national impact with Lonestar and Kenny Alphin’s songs started providing hit material as songwriter for Jason Aldean, Tim McGraw, Gretchen Wilson and other headliners. They would find time to chase other ambitions even after achieving success together.

## SATURDAY CONCERT Gretchen Wilson Continued from Page 7



Her second CD, All Jacked Up, saw four more hit songs like “California Girls,” “I Don’t Feel Like Loving You Today,” and “Politically Uncorrect” (featuring Merle Haggard) ride enthusiastic reviews to platinum status, and her third record, One of the Boys, solidified her position as one of contemporary music’s most original and multi-faceted female artists.

Since her debut, she has been featured on “60 Minutes,” “Dateline NBC,” “20/20 Primetime,” CNN’s “People In The News,” and she has appeared on virtually every morning, noon and late-night television show on the air.

She has won across-the-board awards including ACM’s, CMA’s, AMA’s, Billboard’s, and is a Grammy winner, and nine-time nominee. Her first book, the autobiographical “Redneck Woman: Stories from My Life,” landed her on the prestigious New York Times Best Seller List.

Until recently, Gretchen was one of the millions of Americans who hadn’t finished high school. A dedicated mother, it was important for her to earn her diploma not only for herself, but to prove to her daughter just how important an education is. At the age of 34, Gretchen received her G.E.D. Her friend and mentor, fellow musician Charlie Daniels, was a guest speaker at her graduation ceremony.

She has since become an advocate to help spotlight the funding needs of adult education programs and the adults on waiting lists hoping to further their education.

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