

Wax lyrical



There's a new Madame Tussaud's in Nashville, but unlike its original British museum operation, concentration will be on Music City's historic figures, among them Johnny Cash, Jimi Hendrix, Minnie Pearl, Elvis Presley, Patsy Cline, Little Jimmy Dickens, Blake Shelton, Reba McEntire, Waylon Jennings, Darius Rucker, and yes, Taylor Swift. Situated in Opry Mills, it officially opened April 14, and reportedly marks the wax attraction's seventh US site and 22nd globally.

Hank helps



Publicist **Martha Moore** has shared with us that there's now a Hank Cochran Pen Fund, co-founded by his daughter **Booth** and his widow **Suzi**, to aid cancer-stricken members of the Nashville songwriting community. Hank, who gave us such classic songs as *Make the World Go Away*, *A Little Bitty Tear* and *I Fall To Pieces*, also suffered from the dreaded disease which claimed his life in 2010. His Pen Fund planned an April 25 benefit boasting such star writers as **Dean Dillon**, **Buddy Cannon** and Roger's son **Dean Miller**, at 3rd & Lindsley in Nashville.

Suzi says, the fund is a much-needed aid. "We do everything from paying rent to assisting with household chores. We were fortunate enough to not need help when Hank became ill. That's not true for many others."

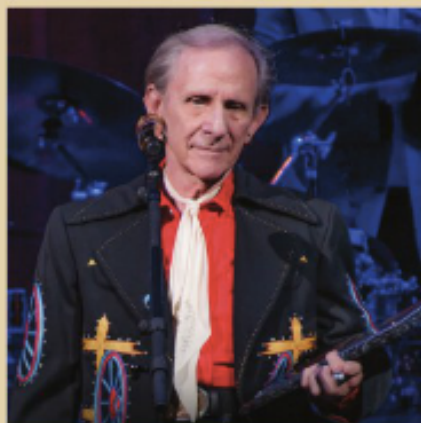
Additionally, Martha Moore (pictured with Cochran) has been announced as one of the latest inductees into the SOURCE Nashville Hall of Fame for her work with WLAC Radio, MCA/ABC Records, PolyGram Records, and So Much MOORE Media. Founded in 1991 by **Shelia Shipley Biddy**, **Judy Harris** and **Pat Rolfe**.

SOURCE is the longest running organization for females in the music industry in Nashville, and is dedicated to fostering relationships and opportunities for its members through continuous education, networking, and community service initiatives.



American artists are crossing their fingers that the newly introduced Fair Play, Fair Pay Act passes Congress, which would force broadcasters to pay artists and labels, when playing their songs. Part of a broader bill on copyrights, it would ensure royalties be paid to singers and companies as well. Current law dictates broadcasters ante up for songwriters and their music publishers. Radio honchos contend the artists and labels enjoy substantial promotional value when their tunes air, and announcers also plug records and upcoming concert tours on their behalf. Currently, internet radio and streaming sites such as Pandora, Apple and Spotify do pay labels if their songs are performed. Singers and musicians rightfully grouse that non-paying broadcasters profit from their talents without offering any compensation. Meantime, the Recording Industry Association of American (RIAA) has signalled its support of the Issa-Deutch proposal, and as CEO **Cary Sherman** stated, in part, "We look forward to working with the chairman, Rep. Deutch, and their colleagues on finally resolving the performance rights loophole."

Farewell Party



Steel-guitarist **Don Warden**, 87, died March 12. He earned prominence performing with country greats Porter Wagoner (including as part of Porter's trio) and Dolly Parton (whom he managed from 1974 onward). Fans remember him as an integral member of Wagoner's long-

running Porter Wagoner telecasts. Donald Charles Warden was born March 27, 1929, son of The Rev. Charles and Eva Jane Warden, in Mountain Grove, Mo.



Following service with Army Intelligence, he started his career in music, succeeding in playing on The Ozark Jubilee and Shreveport's Louisiana Hayride. Among artists he performed with earlier were Red Sovine, Norma Jean and The Wilburn Brothers. Don was inducted into the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame in 2008, the same year he last shared the stage with Parton, who said in a press release, "He was like a father, a brother, a partner and one of my best friends. I feel like

a piece of my heart is missing today. Certainly a huge piece of my life is gone."

Ben Speer, 86, a musical member of the famed Speer Family Singers, died April 7. He was also a music publisher, record executive and music director of the Bill Gaither Homecoming programs. Born June 26, 1930 in Double Springs, Ala., he was the youngest of Lena and George Speer's children.

Most of his career was spent singing with the renowned Speer Family, and as a member he was inducted into the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame (1995), Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame (1998) and recognised by the Southern Gospel Piano Roll of Honor in 2002. Survivors include wife Rebekah (Long) Speer, children Stephen, Darin and Rosa Nell Speer-Powell, and several grandchildren.