

Sports, Entertainment, Arts & Media News

Music & Politics

Country music star Tracy Lawrence endorses Butch Baker for Tennessee Senate, Dist. 17 for August 6 primary

Nashville, TN, July 28, 2026 – Butch Baker, Republican candidate for Tennessee State Senate District 17, announced the endorsement of country music star and longtime Wilson County resident Tracy Lawrence.

In a powerful video conversation released on July 28, Tracy Lawrence endorses Butch Baker

A lifelong Tennessean, devoted husband and father, follower of Jesus Christ, music industry veteran, Marine Corps veteran, and dedicated police chaplain, Butch Baker brings authentic servant leadership to this race.

and they discuss the importance of service in public office. The two also shared deep concerns about recent actions by the Tennessee legislature. Both men agreed that the recent approval of an “Arab Heritage Month” was completely out of step with Tennessee and American values. In the video, Baker and Lawrence both affirm that America is a Christian nation. They emphasized that elected officials must put service to the people first and stand firmly for the faith, freedom, and heritage that built this country.

A lifelong Tennessean, devoted



You can watch the interview here: <https://youtu.be/EwELCvPpn5g>

husband and father, follower of Jesus Christ, music industry veteran, Marine Corps veteran, and dedicated police chaplain, Butch Baker brings authentic servant leadership to this race. Tracy Lawrence’s endorsement reinforces Baker’s reputation as a man of character who will fight for Tennessee’s values in Nash-

ville. With high-profile endorsements from Lee Greenwood, Larry Gatlin, Darryl Worley, Chad Brock, Heidi Newfield, Tracy Lawrence, and local leaders across District 17, Butch Baker’s campaign continues to build powerful momentum heading into the August 6, 2026 Republican primary.

Butch Baker is a lifelong Tennessean, Christian conservative, and music industry leader challenging for the Republican nomination in State Senate District 17. With a background in faith, family, service, and hard work, he is dedicated to bringing common-sense values back to state government.

Newsmax and Meta enter AI content partnership with Meta Platforms

BOCA RATON, Fla., July 28, 2026--Newsmax Inc. (NYSE:NMAX) announced on July 28 that the Company has entered into an AI content partnership with Meta Platforms. Under the agreement, Meta will have access to Newsmax's digital news content. Meta will be able to draw upon Newsmax's significant current reporting as well as archived content across its platforms to support AI queries across Meta's apps and devices. "Newsmax applauds the significant resources Meta is putting into AI to keep America at the forefront of this emerging technology," commented Chris Ruddy, CEO of Newsmax. "We are pleased to work with Meta to help ensure users have access to timely, high-quality journalism through AI technologies," Ruddy said. Newsmax views this agreement as an important step in its broader strategy to work with leading technology companies, expand the reach of its journalism and make the Company's distinctive perspective available through emerging AI technol-

"We are pleased to work with Meta to help ensure users have access to timely, high-quality journalism through AI technologies," Ruddy said.

ogies. About Newsmax Newsmax Inc. is listed on the NYSE (NMAX) and operates, through Newsmax Broadcasting LLC, one of the nation's leading news outlets, the Newsmax channel. The fourth highest-rated network is carried on all major pay TV providers. Newsmax's media properties reach more than 50 million Americans regularly through Newsmax TV, the Newsmax App, its popular website Newsmax.com, and publications such as Newsmax Magazine. Through its social media accounts, Newsmax reaches over 26 million combined followers. Reuters Institute has said Newsmax is one of the top U.S. news brands and Forbes has called Newsmax "a news powerhouse."

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-An Editorial Message from The Mid-South Tribune-

Ned LeDoux and the late Dan Seals release official music video for ‘God Must Be a Cowboy,’ directed by Erika Rock

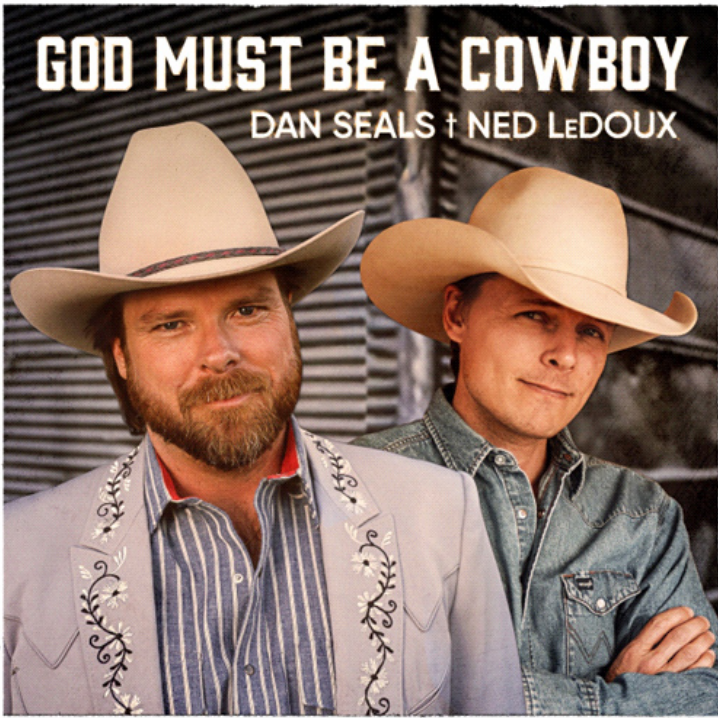
NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 28, 2026– Country troubadours Ned LeDoux and the late Dan Seals star in the official music video for “God Must Be A Cowboy,” out now. Following their reimagined duet released in March, the new video pays tribute to the western, slower-paced way of life.

Directed by Erika Rock, the video begins with LeDoux in a cozy log cabin with “some coffee from a tin cup in his hand...” while singing to archival footage of Seals on a vintage television screen. As the music continues, LeDoux moves to the outdoors with his Takamine guitar, featuring scenes of greenery and wide shots of the majestic world around him.

Filmed in Madison, Tennessee, the quaint atmosphere reflects the song’s message that life is most beautiful because of the blessings we have in front of us.

Wakin' up in the mornin'
With an eagle overhead
Makes me want to fly away
before my time
And I think God must be a
cowboy at heart
He made wide-open spaces
from the start
He made grass and trees and
mountains
And a horse to be a friend
And trails to lead old cowboys
home again

“Shooting the video for ‘God Must Be A Cowboy’ was a lot of fun. Erika made it really easy.



Hearing the song as we shot the video just always put a smile on my face. Proud we could do this for Dan,” said Ned LeDoux. “God Must Be A Cowboy” was Seals’ first Top 10 hit on the Billboard Country Singles chart in 1983. It was also recorded by Ned’s father, Chris LeDoux on his 1984 album Melodies and Memories. LeDoux continues to honor his traditional country roots with his western spirit and familial influence. Next month, he’ll play the iconic Red Rocks Amphitheater in Morrison, Colorado, and recently announced The Bareback Jack Tribute shows. Dedicated to his late father, Ned will play Chris LeDoux’s classic hits in honor of the 50th anniversary

of his 1976 bareback world championship. “God Must Be A Cowboy” is part of the Dan Seals & Friends: The Last Duet album, releasing August 28. With a myriad of dynamic duets including the voices of musical greats Suzy Bogguss, Tanya Tucker, and Vince Gill, the tribute album honors the life and legacy of Dan Seals.

About Ned LeDoux Ned LeDoux, the singer-songwriter and son of country legend Chris LeDoux, has built a career honoring his forebears while still forging his own path. LeDoux, who has been releasing solo music since 2017 but has been a touring musician since his teenage years, has infused all of

his records with realistic stories of life as a cowboy, his relationship with music royalty, and the pain and joy that infuse his work. His first record, Sagebrush, features rock-tinged country jams, built around LeDoux’s approachable delivery and inimitable ability to turn a memorable phrase. Next inLine, released in 2019, proved its title prophetic, introducing LeDoux to a wider audience than ever before. With 2022’s sterling Buckskin, he introduced the renegade spirit of 70s outlaw country into his sound, cooking up simmering jams indebted to his experiences as a ranch hand. On his latest album, touchingly titled Safe Haven after the tragic loss of his daughter, he uses the memories of those he has lost to help him carry on with joy, celebration, and a faith that they are guiding his work. There’s a tribute to his late father in the form of “One Hand in the Rigg’in,” which magically features Ned singing along with a vocal performance his dad tracked 23 years ago. Safe Haven is far and away the artistic statement LeDoux has always wanted to make. “My songwriting maturity is more confident than it’s ever been before,” he explains before adding that his fans will still recognize some of his signature style. “There’s also some stuff on here that relates very well with what I’ve done already, because it’s familiar and com-

fortable.” Safe Haven is an intoxicating blend of risk-taking, bold songwriting, and songs that find LeDoux in his familiar, comfortable territory. Both sides of the coin are equally worthy pursuits, one a reminder of where he’s been, and one an assurance that the path forward is still worth exploring.

About Dan Seals Dan Seals was never one to follow convention. Born and raised in Texas, he played a right-handed, 12-string guitar with his left hand and eight strings—“upside down and backwards,” as he liked to say. This unconventional approach carried through his entire career, as he seamlessly transitioned from pop stardom to country success. Seals first gained fame as “England Dan” in the pop-rock duo, England Dan & John Ford Coley. The pair’s 1976 hit “I’d Really Love to See You Tonight” cemented their place in pop history, followed by other classics, “Nights Are Forever Without You” and “Love Is The Answer.” When the duo disbanded, Seals faced financial struggles as he worked for years to rebuild his career. Determined to find a new path, he embraced his country roots. In 1984, “God Must Be a Cowboy” gave him his first country top 10 hit. This paved the way for an astonishing run of eleven No. 1 Billboard country hits. Hits such as “Bop,”

“Everything That Glitters (Is Not Gold),” and “Meet Me in Montana,” featuring Marie Osmond, showcased his ability to blend emotional depth with commercial appeal. His work earned him 2 CMA awards, multiple GRAMMY nominations, and a loyal fanbase. Seals was known for his artistic integrity, only recording songs that stirred him emotionally. His producer, Kyle Lehning, recalled how he pursued excellence with “light-hearted seriousness” in the studio. When the radio hits slowed, Seals remained a beloved touring act, later performing with his brother Jim (from Seals & Crofts) as Seals & Seals, bringing their respective catalogs to audiences worldwide.

Diagnosed with mantle cell lymphoma in 2007, Seals faced his final days with the same grace he brought to his music. He passed away on March 25, 2009, at 8:30 p.m.—“Showtime,” as his manager put it. Seals was posthumously inducted into the Texas Heritage Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2025. His legacy remains one of versatility, authenticity, and an enduring impact on both pop and country music. A duets album, Dan Seals & Friends: The Last Duet, featuring Seals’ vocals with a cavalcade of respected musicians, will be released on August 28.

Complimentary military tickets are available for FedEx St. Jude Championship, August 12-16.
For more information, visit
FedExChampionship.com/military.

Also, watch for The Mid-South Tribune’s
William M. Larsha, Jr.’s coverage
of the FedEx St. Jude Championship!

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