



Blog

## THE SPIRIT OF A MUSICAL JOURNEY

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#### THESE ARMS OF MINE – THE BLOWIN' SMOKE RHYTHM AND BLUES BAND

Few musicians have had the journey that Larry "Fuzzy" Knight has. His legacy is still being written today. He has played with some of the most iconic figures in rock n' roll and blues history. His resumé includes guitarist, bassist, session player, songwriter, arranger and band leader. Go ahead and add rock historian to his remarkable list of accomplishments. His personal musical experiences are fun stories, only he can tell. Knight's merry band of musicians playing today is called the Blowin' Smoke Rhythm and Blues Band and they are hot! Especially his vocal sidekicks, the Fabulous Smokettes! These fine lady singers bring a special touch to numbers they perform. When you add up all the parts, you've got a show.

Knight formed the group over 20 years ago, and they have been playing in one form or another ever since. Of course Fuzzy Knight was the one constant in the group. as the bandleader I would say that was mandatory. Knight stays authentic to this St. Louis style band. It is an eleven piece tour-de-force, that comes to entertain. Whether it's a cover of a classic Willie Dixon Blues number or an original song with that classic Fuzzy Knight arrangement, the audience will leave entertained. Blowin' Smoke is just not your everyday musical act. At least not in today's entertainment world. That's not to say there aren't 11 piece bands that are playing large venues, you just, generally, don't see them at the smaller clubs. But you will find the Blowin' Smoke troupe there, and the Blues Festival scene too. The crowds will be glad they showed up I promise you that. After the show you'll find them at the merchandise table rubbing elbows with the fans and sharing stories about the one thing they have in common. A love of music, good old fashion R&B like it was meant to be played.

"The main thing is that it's the music that counts, the messages in the songs that you write and that you record, those things do positive and happy and healing things to humanity. It's not for one person; it's for every single human being. It's the same when you go and play a gig. I do not care if you play in front of a half a million people if you're playing for twenty people in a night club. The whole idea of being there and doing what you're doing is that when you're done at the end of the night, you know that you've given a hundred and ten percent of what's inside of your soul – your spirit – up there on that stage; that you've played the best that you can play and that you hope that, when the people that experienced that moment with you, that they go home feeling better than when they got there to begin with. That's all there is to it."

Larry "Fuzzy" Knight



Knight was born in 1944, and did two years in the Army which included a 14 month stint in Vietnam. He'll be the first to tell you he was glad to be back... but he'll also remind you that musically he lost two years because of that service. He doesn't speak of regret, though. He just had to work a little harder to chase down his dream. Playing the music he loves, and living the life that most of us, music fans can only dream about. He spent five years with the legendary classic rock band Spirit. Playing bass with one of the fore most guitarist to come out of the 60's, Randy California. In his years with Spirit they were headlining venues in Europe and the United States. Two of the many bands that opened for Spirit during this time, was Led Zeppelin and the Police. This was the company that Knight and Spirit were keeping. This is also where the celebrated lawsuit between the Estate of Randy Wolfe (California) and Led Zeppelin has it's beginnings. California (Wolfe) wrote a song called "Taurus" and the opening for the more famous "Stairway to Heaven" sounds remarkably like the lesser known Spirit song. That lawsuit is in appeal today and Fuzzy Knight provided testimony in the case.

Time marches on for Knight and the Blowin' Smoke Rhythm and Blues Band. There is much to look forward to, for the group and for fans of their music. In the coming year work will proceed on a studio recording, and of course a rigorous playing schedule is putting a smile on Knight's face. Because he will be the first to tell you working in the music industry is a lifelong obsession that makes him happy. The only thing that makes him happier is playing for people everywhere he goes.

[Click here to listen to the Soul Man's Interview with Larry "Fuzzy" Knight.](#)

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