



High Energy, Power Packed and Real Country With Flash!
That's PENNY GILLEY!

For Penny Gilley, it's all about the fans. Whether she's singing on a stage in Las Vegas, a packed auditorium in South Dakota, or in front of thousands of GIs in Kuwait, Penny treats her audiences like a second family.

Maybe that's part of growing up in a place like West Monroe, Louisiana, where her first audience were neighbors sitting in the pews at Southside Assembly of God. Penny, only 9, would sing, while mom, Barbara, played the piano and dad, James, played the guitar.

For sure it's the reason she loves old-time gospel music and country classics, because it touches hearts and speaks to people. The fans don't get to hear the traditional music on the radio anymore, she says. People are starved for the music they grew up on and love.

I remember when I was a kid, and Ernest Tubb would come through town, he'd take the time to talk to people, she says. It really made an impression on me and I promised myself that if I ever got a chance to perform, I'd do the same thing.

Penny has kept her promise. She's renowned for staying late to meet fans, sign autographs or just sit and talk. Most nights, she's the last person to leave the theater. When you give them your time, you are giving them a piece of your life, and they take it to heart, she says. That's why she's got some of the most loyal fans in show business.

That certainly includes daughters, Daniella, twins Jerilyn and Amanda, grandsons, Evan, Garrett, Jackson, Hudson and finally a granddaughter, Bailey.

Penny tries to create a little bit of Louisiana in the kitchen. She loves to cook up a pot of gumbo or a bowl of chicken and dumplings. And if it's Thanksgiving more than likely she's had a tur-duck-hen flown in for the holidays. That a Louisiana specialty -- a turkey, stuffed with a chicken, stuffed with a duck, then topped off with crawfish dressing.

Penny's roots are deep in Louisiana. She started singing professionally as a teenager in West Monroe, as the only female member of a gospel group known as The Louisianans. Her love of country music led her to perform at Opry shows all over the South including The Louisiana Hayride in Shreveport. That helped shape the kind of show she puts on today.

Penny released several singles to radio, two of which went to #1 on the independent chart. Her popularity spread overseas with more #1s in Europe where her traditional sound led to performances at festivals in Germany, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Penny has worked with many country stars including her idols Barbara Mandrell and Loretta Lynn. She has performed throughout the country and around the world in venues from The Nugget, The Flamingo and Bally's in Las Vegas & Reno to casinos throughout the United States.

But with all the glitz and glamour, Penny says that one of the blessings of her professional life has been the privilege of performing for soldiers overseas.

After someone sent Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf a copy of her song about Desert Storm (The Line Drawn In The Sand) he invited Penny to headline at the homecoming for Desert Storm soldiers at Oceanside, Calif. in 1991. She performed for over 120,000 servicemen and women and their family and friends in the biggest military homecoming event ever held in the United States.

Penny was so moved by the experience, she eagerly signed on to perform for troops around the world, logging over 400,000 air miles to entertain troops in Kuwait, Kosovo, Iraq, and Bosnia. For ten years in a row, she went to South Korea to perform for the troops, where she was honored as "Entertainer of the Year."

Known as the "Sweetheart of Country Music", this energetic, 5'2" brown-eyed blonde explodes on a stage in Kuwait or South Korea with a show filled with country music and a dazzling wardrobe that's become her trademark. It's a powerful combination that connects the soldiers, for just a minute, with America.

Penny calls it the most rewarding thing she's ever done. It touches your heart because you look in their eyes, they don't complain about where they are and what they are doing, she says. They're just so proud to be doing what they do. Instead, they like to pull out pictures of their kids and family from their wallet and share it with her.

It is like old home week, says Penny. They are so starved for something from home.

That's all part of Penny's key to success, in life or on the stage: If you're true to yourself and true to your fans, you'll do really well.

In other words, it's all about the fans.

Penny now hosts her own weekly TV show "The Penny Gilley Show", recorded in Fort Worth, Texas, on RFD-TV (DishNetwork 231, DirecTV 345, ATT-Uverse 1568, over 500 cable companies) on Fridays at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm (Central) with a repeat at 11:30 pm. Penny now has her own Penny Gilley Channel on Roku and Amazon Fire featuring on demand episodes of the show.

Penny headlined in Branson for four years at the RFD-TV Theater and The Mansion Theater, then returned to Texas to be closer to her daughters and grandchildren. Penny and her husband Mike now make their home in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.