



# GP's 40th Anniversary Concert

BY MICHAEL MOLEND A

*Guitar Player* celebrated its 40th birthday at the Winter NAMM show by unleashing a ferocious platoon of acoustic and electric guitar greats on January 20, in partnership with Muriel Anderson's All-Star Guitar Night. Anaheim's Hilton Ballroom resonated with quiet storms—a lá Anderson, Michael Chapdelaine, and friends—and fearsome displays of electrical power, courtesy of Richie Kotzen, Johnny Hiland, Dick Dale, and others. Dale was duly honored with the *Guitar Player* LEGEND award, and left everyone's ears joyously ringing at the end of a fabulous night.



**Clockwise from top:** *GP* Editor in Chief Michael Molenda expresses wonder and appreciation at how music-store owner Bud Eastman's little guitar magazine grew from a few cobbled-together pages in 1967 to the rockin' publishing icon it is today; Muriel Anderson picking and beaming at her 15th All-Star Guitar Night; Frank Vignola (left) played a stunning "GypsyGrass" set with 17-year-old mandolinist Matt Flinger; after starting with a lyrical piece, singer/songwriter Willy Porter exploded into a kick-ass slap-guitar extravaganza; *GP* Associate Publisher Gary Ciocci (left) hanging with *CSI: NY* star (and musician) Gary Sinise during the concert.





**Clockwise from top:** The originator and master of surf guitar Dick Dale furiously trilling notes of mayhem on his gold-metalflake custom Strat; Dale, son Jimmy, and Editor Boy surrounding the legend's *GP* LEGEND award (the only other honorees to date are Les Paul and Duane Eddy); Father and son trading riffs during an extremely loud and proud set; the quiet, classy majesty of classical/fingerstyle maestro Michael Chapdelaine; *GP* Guitar Hero 2006 winner Trey Alexander bends into a soulful note during his rendition of Jimi Hendrix's "Little Wing," backed by the original Pat Metheny Group rhythm section of bassist Mark Egan and drummer Danny Gottlieb.



## RIFFS Cool Event



**Clockwise from top:** Former *Frets* cover artist Monty Montgomery electrified the crowd with a barrage of clean and fuzzed-out acoustic tones and some truly jaw-dropping solos; Gil Parris cradles his signature-model Reverend guitar; “special friend” Paul Reed Smith (left) helps speed king Johnny Hiland fret a few high notes; purveyor of old-school cool Robert Conti gets down with bassist Mark Egan; Richie Kotzen’s evocative voice, stage presence, and searing guitar playing provided an abundance of exhilarating rock-star moments; the School of Rock All-Stars opened the evening’s electric set with rousing covers of Fleetwood Mac, Eagles, and Deep Purple tunes; some killer School of Rock riffs provided by a teen and a Tele; Muriel Anderson watches as Michael Chapdelaine digs in.



