

AARON TIPPIN

by Tamela Meredith Partridge
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Country singer and songwriter, Aaron Tippin, first encouraged fans to stand up for what they believed in with '91 debut album and title track hit, "You've Got To Stand For Something."

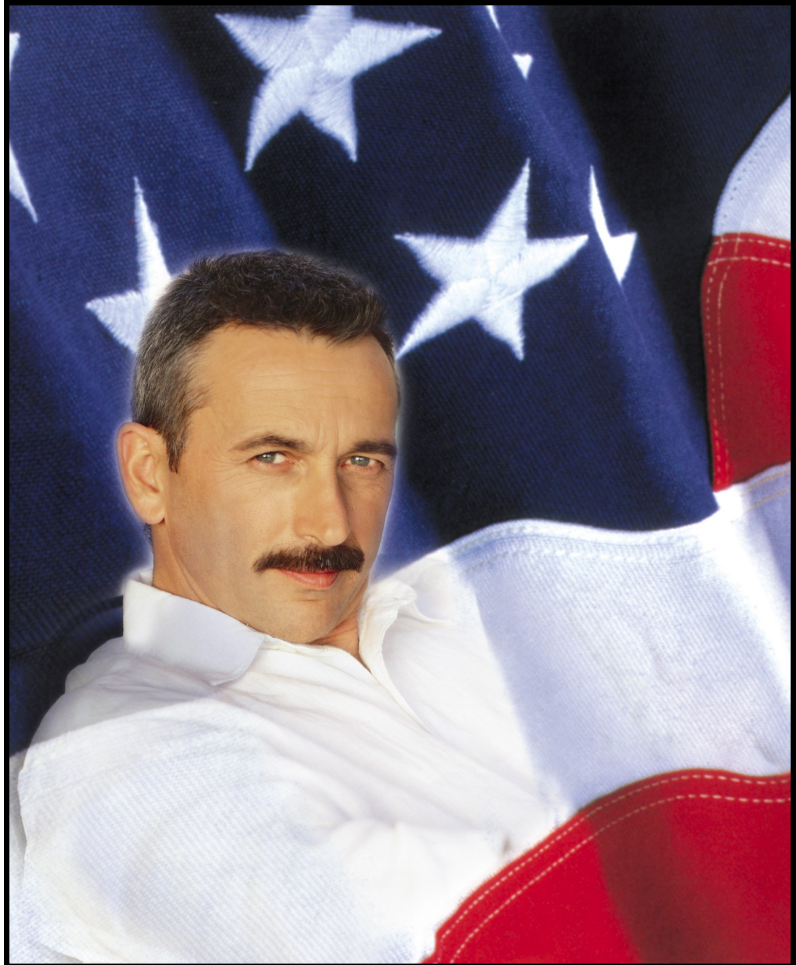
And over a decade later, Tippin is still crooning great advice within his current single, "Where The Stars And Stripes And The Eagle Fly."

"'You've Got To Stand For Something' took me to Saudi Arabia with Bob Hope in '91 to entertain the troops during the Gulf War," Tippin says. "But what is most important to me about 'Where The Stars And Stripes And The Eagle Fly,' is that all the proceeds from the song went to benefit the victims of the September 11 terrorist tragedy. I feel very lucky, in that respect, that I got to be a part of trying to help those people whose families lost lives or loved ones."

Tippin, an experienced pilot and operator of a local county airport, knows how it feels to have a family member involved in an airplane incident. His father, a former Air Force pilot and instructor, was injured in an airplane crash when Tippin was a young child. Upon recovery, his family moved to Travelers Rest, South Carolina and took up farming near the Blue Ridge Mountains.

No stranger to hard work, Tippin was put in the tractor seat at age eight and writing his first song, "Three O'Clock In The Morning," at age nine on a \$30 piano given to him by his father.

"I learned at a very early age a lot about what it takes to survive," Tippin says. "I used to sing to pass the time while we worked in the fields. I think that's why my singing voice is so loud. I had to sing over the noise of the tractor to hear myself."



Tippin applied his dedicated work ethic to various jobs as a truck driver, commercial pilot and heavy equipment operator. He finally drove his musical dreams to Nashville in '87 with the help of his beloved beat-up '75 Toyota named "Dazee."

To make ends meet, Tippin worked the midnight shift at a factory, wrote songs for a Nashville song publishing company by day and trained for weight-lifting competitions in the afternoon.

"That was a great time in my life," Tippin said. "I barely had enough money for food, so I would buy a 20-pound bag of beans and eat that every day for lunch and dinner, but I was so happy that I was getting to do what I loved to do."

In an effort to save money, Tippin would sing on his own songwriting demos. His unique demo singing voice caught the attention of a record label executive and led to a recording contract in '90.

Tippin has sold five million albums and charted numerous hit singles including, "There Ain't Nothing Wrong With The Radio," "My Blue Angel," "Working Man's PhD," "People Like Us," and "Kiss This."

"One of the best moments of my music career was watching my wife, Thea, take her first songwriting award for co-writing Kiss This, at the BMI Awards last year," Tippin says. "She is a great talent and super singer. I'm kind of the guy who got her into songwriting and taught her the craft, so it was really a wonderful moment."

Amidst his career success is an equally happy home life. Tippin and Thea live in a spacious log home on a 325-acre farm near Nashville with their two young sons, Teddy and Thomas, and Tippin's daughter from a previous marriage, Charla.

"After all is said and done," Tippin says, "I depend on my family. That's the most wonderful part of my life, and the real saving grace to me."

For Tippin, successfully combining the classic elements of traditional country music with the popular appeal of today's Nashville sound has been a satisfying career highlight.

"I am a fan of the 'old school' of country writers and artists," Tippin says. "My heroes are people like Hank Williams Sr., Jimmie Rodgers, and Hank Snow. I try to keep traditional country alive, and I try to do that with my writing and my singing."

Tippin, who will be releasing a new album this summer, believes his music gives an accurate portrayal of what he stands for.

"I guess, in a way, that if you want to know Aaron Tippin, just listen to my records and you'll get a pretty good cross-cut of me," Tippin says.