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Press Release

Source: Open Wide/Columbia Records

## Dixie Chicks New Album, Taking The Long Way, Debuts At #1 On Billboard Top 200

Wednesday May 31, 8:45 am ET

### Dixie Chicks Become First Female Group Ever To Have Three Albums Debut In Top Slot

### On Sales Dates For Dixie Chicks "Accidents & Accusations Tour" Announced

NEW YORK, May 31 /PRNewswire/ -- As Taking The Long Way debuts at #1 on the Billboard Top 200 best-selling albums chart this week, with first week's sales of 525,829, the Dixie Chicks have become the first female group in chart history to have three albums debut at #1, breaking the record the Chicks established in 2002 when the group's last studio album, Home, debuted at #1 and made them the first female group ever to have two albums debut at #1.

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With the #1 debut of Taking The Long Way, the Dixie Chicks have also become the first female group in chart history to have three studio albums occupy the #1 slot on the Top 200.

Taking The Long Way has achieved one of the year's Top 5 first week's sales tallies and has the best first week's sales for any female act on the Top 200 in 2006.

In addition to its chart-topping success in America, Taking The Long Way has just debuted at #2 in Australia.

Taking The Long Way arrives in the midst of an incredible media blitz surrounding the Dixie Chicks, who were honored with a profile on CBS's "60 Minutes" and appeared on the cover of Time magazine an unprecedented two times in May. The group was featured in a five-part series of

interviews, culminating with an SRO live concert at New York's Bryant Park on Friday, May 26, on ABC's "Good Morning America." The Dixie Chicks will sit down for an in-depth interview on "Larry King Live" tonight, Wednesday, May 31.

The popular success of Taking The Long Way is echoed in the praise the album is receiving from the press, which has been heralding the record in a flurry of four-star reviews. "Taking The Long Way embraces the depth and fury of classic rock while remaining true to the trio's Texas roots," raved Rolling Stone while USA Today called the album "Incredibly impressive."

Entertainment Weekly gave the new Dixie Chicks album an "A" grade saying, "Fightin' words and the music doesn't back down either, on an album that finds the Dixie Chicks bolder than ever. With (Natalie) Maines projecting more passionately than ever, Taking The Long Way remains intimate and personal."

"This is an album that has something for everyone," said The New York Times, "old fans who thought the Dixie Chicks were at their finest in their fancy-free early days as well as recent admirers who are eager to



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see the band push beyond the confines of country."

Rolling Stone closed its review of the album with a nod to the new Dixie Chicks single, "If you've dismissed the Chicks or need a new reason to love them, the epic, howling longing of 'Voice Inside My Head' will blow away your expectations."

The record-breaking chart-topping success of Taking The Long Way is the latest in a long line of achievements for the Dixie Chicks. With 39 RIAA gold, platinum and multi-platinum certifications to their credit, the Dixie Chicks are the only female group to hold two RIAA Diamond Awards (each for sales of more than 10 million units).

The Dixie Chicks have won eight Grammy Awards including:

Best Country Album (Wide Open Spaces, 1998; Fly, 1999; Home, 2002)

Best Country Performance By A Duo Or Group With Vocal ("There's Your Trouble," 1998; "Ready To Run," 1999; "Long Time Gone," 2002; "Top of the World," 2004)

Best Country Instrumental Performance ("Lil' Jack Slade," 2002) and

Best Recording Package (Home, 2002).

Taking The Long Way is produced by Rick Rubin (Johnny Cash, Neil Diamond, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Run-DMC) and features fourteen new songs co-written by the Dixie Chicks.

"Everything felt more personal this time," says the Dixie Chicks' Natalie Maines. "I go back to songs we've done in the past and there's just more maturity, depth, intelligence on these. They just feel more grown-up."

Having sold more than \$100 million worth of concert tickets during their career, the Dixie Chicks are one of the most popular live acts in history. The Dixie Chicks will embark on the "Accidents & Accusations Tour" in support of Taking The Long Way beginning July 21 in Detroit, Michigan and ending November 11 in Tacoma, Washington (full itinerary follows). For additional tour information and links to purchase tickets for the "Accidents & Accusations" tour, please log on to: [www.dixiechicks.com](http://www.dixiechicks.com)

DIXIE CHICKS ACCIDENTS & ACCUSATIONS TOUR			
Date	City	Venue	On sale
21-Jul	Detroit, MI	Joe Louis Arena	Saturday, June 3
22-Jul	Pittsburgh, PA	Mellon Arena	Saturday, June 3
23-Jul	Columbus, OH	Schottenstein Center	Saturday, June 10
25-Jul	Philadelphia, PA	Wachovia Center	Saturday, June 3
28-Jul	Albany, NY	Pepsi Arena	Saturday, June 3
29-Jul	Boston, MA	Banknorth Garden	Saturday, June 3
1-Aug	New York, NY	Madison Square Garden	Monday, June 5
4-Aug	Washington, DC	Verizon Center	Saturday, June 3
13-Aug	Milwaukee, WI	Bradley Center	Saturday, June 10
15-Aug	Chicago, IL	The United Center	Saturday, June 3
18-Aug	Minneapolis, MN	Target Center	Saturday, June 3
20-Aug	Kansas City, MO	Kemper Arena	Saturday, June 10
22-Aug	St. Louis, MO	Savvis Center	Saturday, June 10
23-Aug	Indianapolis, IN	Conseco Fieldhouse	Saturday, June 10
24-Aug	Des Moines, IA	Wells Fargo Arena	Saturday, June 3
26-Aug	Fargo, ND	Fargodome	Saturday, June 3
3-Sep	Phoenix, AZ	Glendale Arena	Saturday, June 3
6-Sep	Fresno, CA	SaveMart Center	Saturday, June 10
8-Sep	Sacramento, CA	ARCO Arena	Saturday, June 10
9-Sep	Oakland, CA	Oakland Arena	Sunday, June 11
14-Sep	Los Angeles, CA	STAPLES Center	Saturday, June 10
16-Sep	Las Vegas, NV	Mandalay Bay	Saturday, June 10
23-Sep	Omaha, NE	Qwest Center	Saturday, June 3
24-Sep	Denver, CO	Pepsi Center	Saturday, June 10
26-Sep	Oklahoma City, OK	Ford Center	Saturday, June 10
27-Sep	Memphis, TN	FedEx Forum	Saturday, June 10
29-Sep	Dallas, TX	American Airlines Center	Saturday, June 3
30-Sep	Houston, TX	Toyota Center	Saturday, June 10
1-Oct	Austin, TX	Frank Erwin Center	Saturday, June 10
3-Oct	Nashville, TN	Gaylord Entertainment Ctr.	Saturday, June 3
5-Oct	Tampa, FL	St. Pete Times Forum	Saturday, June 3
6-Oct	Jacksonville, FL	Veterans Memorial Arena	Saturday, June 10
7-Oct	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	BankAtlantic Center	Saturday, June 3
17-Oct	Atlanta, GA	Philips Arena	Saturday, June 3
20-Oct	Knoxville, TN	Thompson-Boling Arena	Saturday, June 3
22-Oct	Greensboro, NC	Greensboro Coliseum	Saturday, June 10
27-Oct	Ottawa, Ontario	Scotiabank Place	Saturday, June 3
28-Oct	Toronto, Ontario	Air Canada Centre	Saturday, June 3
4-Nov	Edmonton, Alberta	Rexall Place	Saturday, June 10
5-Nov	Calgary, Alberta	Saddledome	Saturday, June 3
8-Nov	Vancouver, BC	GM Place	Saturday, June 3
9-Nov	Portland, OR	Rose Garden	Saturday, June 3
11-Nov	Tacoma, WA	Tacoma Dome	Saturday, June 3

Source: Open Wide/Columbia Records

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