

Year In Review

A Roll Call Of Some Who Died In '15

BY BERNARD MCGHEE

Associated Press

Sometimes the act of dying, by itself, represents a type of victory.

Such was the case for Richard "Dick" Walters, who was a leader in the effort to get the state of Vermont to pass aid-in-dying legislation. Diagnosed with lung cancer, Walters ultimately used the law to end his own life in October at age 90, becoming one of the many notables who died in 2015.

Among political figures were King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and a Saudi prince, Saud al-Faisal, recognized as the world's longest-serving foreign minister. He retired earlier in the year after 40 years in the position and died in July at age 75.

Former West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt, along with Arpad Gonczi and Kim Young-sam, the former presidents of Hungary and South Korea, were among world leaders who died. Other political figures included Delaware Attorney General Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III, son of U.S. Vice President Joe Biden; Iraqi politician Ahmad Chalabi; and Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov.

Deaths in the arena of science and innovation included John Forbes Nash Jr., the mathematical genius whose struggle with schizophrenia was chronicled in the film "A Beautiful Mind."

Some other deaths in the science world: inventor Forrest Bird, nuclear physicist Ralph Nobles, engineer Oscar Carl Holderer, chemist Carl Djerassi and scientist Richard Post.

Among the entertainers who died in 2015 was an actor who helped take TV viewers to alien worlds while showing the common humanity that unites everyone: Leonard Nimoy, 83, who was beloved by generations of "Star Trek" fans for his portrayal of the pointy-eared Mr. Spock.

For some, the end came far too soon. At just 22, Bobbi Kristina Brown died in July in hospice care. Her death came six months after she was found face-down in a bathtub in her home, creating an eerie echo of the death of her mother, singer Whitney Houston.

Others in arts and entertainment who died this year include: actors Christopher Lee, Maureen O'Hara, Dick Van Patten, Yvonne Craig and Martin Milner; musicians B.B. King, Demis Roussos, Allen Toussaint, Lynn Anderson, Ben E. King and James Horner; filmmakers Wes Craven and Eldar Ryazanov; writers Terry Pratchett, Gamal el-Ghitani and Guenter Grass; cartoonist Tom Moore and ballerina Maya Plisetskaya.

Here is a roll call of some of the people who died in 2015. (Cause of death cited for younger people, if available.)

JANUARY:

Mario Cuomo, 82. Son of Italian immigrants who became an eloquent spokesman for a generation of liberal Democrats during his three terms as governor of New York. Jan. 1.

Donna Douglas, 82. She played the buxom tomboy Elly May Clampett on the hit 1960s sitcom "The Beverly Hillbillies." Jan. 1. Pancreatic cancer.

Little Jimmy Dickens, 94. A diminutive singer-songwriter known as the oldest cast member of the Grand Ole Opry. Jan. 2.

Maher Hathout, 79. Prominent interfaith leader hailed as the father of the Muslim American identity. Jan. 2.

Edward W. Brooke, 95. Former U.S. senator from Massachusetts who, as a liberal Republican, became the first black in U.S.



ANNE CUSACK/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS)

Actor Leonard Nimoy arrives with wife Susan Bay Nimoy to a theater renaming in 2006 in Hollywood Hills, Calif. Nimoy died Feb. 27, at his home in Bel-Air. He was 83.

history to win popular election to the Senate. Jan. 3.

Arch Alfred Moore Jr., 91. Former West Virginia governor and his era's most successful Republican in a Democrat-dominated state. Jan. 7.

Andrae Crouch, 72. Legendary gospel performer, songwriter and choir director whose work graced songs by Michael Jackson and Madonna and movies such as "The Lion King." Jan. 8.

Anita Ekberg, 83. Swedish-born actress and sex-symbol of the 1950s and '60s who was immortalized bathing in the Trevi fountain in "La Dolce Vita." Jan. 11.

Tony Verna, 81. Television director and producer who invented instant replay for live sports. Jan. 18.

Reies Lopez Tijerina, 88. Pentecostal preacher turned activist who led a violent raid of a northern New Mexico courthouse nearly 50 years ago. Jan. 19.

Anne Kirkbride, 60. A star of British soap opera "Coronation Street" for more than 40 years. Jan. 19.

Melvin Gordon, 95. Longtime Tootsie Roll Industries Inc. chairman and CEO, who helped turn the enduring popularity of the humble Tootsie Roll into a candy empire. Jan. 20.

Wendell Ford, 90. Former U.S. senator and Kentucky governor who was an unapologetic smoker whose unfiltered chats and speeches endeared him to voters. Jan. 22.

King Abdullah, 90. The Saudi monarch was a powerful U.S. ally who fought against al-Qaida and sought to modernize the ultraconservative Muslim kingdom, including by nudging open greater opportunities for women. Jan. 23.

Ernie Banks, 83. Hall of Fame slugger and two-time MVP who never lost his boundless enthusiasm for baseball despite years of playing on losing Chicago Cubs teams. Jan. 23.

Stig Bergling, 77. Former Swedish security officer who sold secrets to the Soviet Union during the Cold War and brazenly escaped while serving a life sentence for espionage. Jan. 24.

Otto Carlus, 92. World War II German panzer ace credited with destroying more than 150 enemy tanks, mostly on the Eastern Front. Jan. 24.

Demis Roussos, 68. Renowned Greek singer who was a household name in the 1970s and 1980s across Europe and beyond. Jan. 25.

Rod McKuen, 81. Husky-voiced "King of Kitsch" whose avalanche of music, verse and spoken-word recordings in the 1960s and '70s overwhelmed critical mockery and made him an Oscar-nominated songwriter and one of the best-selling poets in history. Jan. 29.

Carl Djerassi, 91. Chemist widely considered the father of the birth control pill. Jan. 30.

Lizabeth Scott, 92. Her long tawny hair, alluring face and low, seductive voice made her an ideal film noir star in the 1940s and '50s. Jan. 31.

FEBRUARY:

Ann Mara, 85. Matriarch of the NFL's New York Giants for the past 60 years. Feb. 1.

Fitzhugh "Fitz" Fulton Jr., 89. Pilot known as the "Dean of Flight Test" for his involvement in pioneering programs including the space shuttle piggyback flights. Feb. 4.

Niki Quasney, 38. Terminally ill woman whose desire to have her same-sex marriage recognized by Indiana before she died helped galvanize efforts to

overturn the state's gay marriage ban. Feb. 5. Cancer.

Dean Smith, 83. Coaching innovator who won two national championships at North Carolina, an Olympic gold medal in 1976 and induction into basketball's Hall of Fame more than a decade before he left the bench. Feb. 7.

Kenji Ekuian, 85. Japanese industrial designer whose works ranged from a bullet train to the red-capped Kikkoman soy sauce dispenser. Feb. 7.

Jerry Tarkanian, 84. Hall of Fame coach who built a basketball dynasty at UNLV but was defined more by his decades-long battle with the NCAA. Feb. 11.

Bob Simon, 73. Longtime "60 Minutes" correspondent who covered riots, Academy Award-nominated movies and wars and was held captive for more than a month in Iraq two decades ago. Feb. 11. Car crash.

Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, 84. Revered Islamic spiritual leader who helped bolster unity in Malaysia's opposition bloc and was a key advocate of Islamic law. Feb. 12.

Gary Owens, 80. Droll, mellifluous-voiced announcer on "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" and a familiar part of radio, TV and movies for more than six decades. Feb. 12.

Michele Ferrero, 89. World's richest candy maker whose Nutella chocolate and hazelnut spread helped raise generations of Europeans and defined Italian sweets. Feb. 14.

Louis Jourdan, 83. Dashingly handsome Frenchman who starred in "Gigi," "Can-Can," "Three Coins in the Fountain" and other American movies. Feb. 14.

Lesley Gore, 68. She topped the charts in 1963 at age 16 with her epic song of teenage angst, "It's My Party," and followed it up with the hit "Judy's Turn to Cry," and the feminist anthem "You Don't Own Me." Feb. 16. Lung cancer.

John Wilke, 89. Obstetrician who helped shape the modern anti-abortion movement with ideas including a belief that a woman can resist conception from a sexual assault. Feb. 20.

Ralph Nobles, 94. Nuclear physicist who worked on the Manhattan Project and later led efforts to save thousands of acres of San Francisco Bay wetlands from development. Feb. 20.

Leonard Nimoy, 83. Actor loved by generations of "Star Trek" fans as Mr. Spock, the pointy-eared, purely logical science officer. Feb. 27.

Robert Benmosche, 70. Former AIG President and CEO who led the insurer's turnaround after its \$182 billion government bailout. Feb. 27.

Natalia Revuelta Clews, 89. Cuban socialite who emptied her bank account and sold her diamond jewelry to support Fidel Castro when he was a little-known insurgent. Feb. 27.

Boris Nemtsov, 55. Charismatic Russian opposition leader, former deputy prime minister and a sharp critic of President Vladimir Putin. Feb. 28. Fatally shot near the Kremlin.

MARCH:

Minnie Minoso, 90. He hit a two-run home run in his first at-bat when he became major league baseball's first black player in Chicago in 1951. March 1.

Beverly Hall, 68. Former Atlanta Public Schools superintendent charged in what prosecutors called a broad conspiracy to cheat on state exams. March 2. Complications from breast cancer.

Dean Hess, 97. Retired Air

Force colonel who helped rescue hundreds of orphans in the Korean War and whose exploits prompted a Hollywood film starring Rock Hudson. March 2.

Jim Molyneux, 94. Soft-spoken, cautious politician who led the Ulster Unionist Party through some of Northern Ireland's bloodiest years and early efforts at peacemaking. March 9.

Florence Arthaud, 57. First woman to win the prestigious Route du Rhum transatlantic sailing race. March 9. Helicopter crash.

Claude Sitton, 89. Journalist who set the pace for reporters covering the civil rights movement in the South in the 1950s and '60s and later won a Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary. March 10.

Richard Glatzer, 63. He co-wrote and directed the Alzheimer's drama "Still Alice" alongside his husband, Wash Westmoreland, while battling ALS. March 10.

Terry Pratchett, 66. Fantasy writer who was the creator of the exuberant, satirical "Discworld" series and author of more than 70 books. March 12.

Michael Graves, 80. Celebrated architect who created whimsical postmodern structures and later designed products for people with disabilities and household goods such as whistling Alessi teakettles and stainless steel colanders. March 12.

Rev. Willie Barrow, 90. Front-line civil rights fighter for decades and a mentor to younger generations of activists. March 12.

Samuel Charters, 85. Historian of American blues, folk and jazz who helped introduce a generation of music lovers to Robert Johnson, Blind Willie McTell and other performers. March 18. Bone marrow disorder.

Malcolm Fraser, 84. Former Australian prime minister who was notoriously catapulted to power by a constitutional crisis that left the nation bitterly divided. March 20.

Jerry Warren, 84. The editor of San Diego's largest newspaper for 20 years and a White House press secretary during the Nixon and Ford administrations. March 20.

Chuck Bednarik, 89. Pro Football Hall of Famer and one of the last great two-way NFL players. March 21.

Lee Kuan Yew, 91. Founder of modern Singapore who was both feared for his authoritarian tactics and admired for turning the city-state into one of the world's richest nations while in power for 31 years. March 23.

Gary Ross Dahl, 78. Creator of the wildly popular 1970s fad the Pet Rock. March 23. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Yehuda Avner, 86. Former Israeli diplomat and aide to a string of prime ministers who turned his

insider stories about the country's leaders into a best-selling memoir. March 24.

Carlos Gaviria, 77. Former Colombian presidential candidate who became an icon of the country's democratic left while presiding over its constitutional court. March 31.

APRIL:

Cynthia Lennon, 75. First wife of the late Beatles singer-songwriter-guitarist John Lennon. April 1. Cancer.

John Paul Hammerschmidt, 92. Longtime Arkansas congressman who defeated Bill Clinton in the former president's first race for political office. April 1.

Rev. Robert H. Schuller, 88. California televangelist and author who beamed his upbeat messages on faith and redemption to millions of followers from his landmark Crystal Cathedral only to see his empire crumble in his waning years. April 2.

Sarah Kemp Brady, 73. She became an activist for gun control after her husband was shot in the head in the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. April 3.

Robert Burns Jr., 64. Former drummer and a founding member of the Southern hard rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd. April 3. Vehicle crash.

Richard Dysart, 86. Veteran stage and screen actor who played senior partner Leland McKenzie in the long-running TV courtroom drama "L.A. Law." April 5.

James Best, 88. Prolific character actor best known for his role as Sheriff Rosco P. Coltrane on "The Dukes of Hazzard." April 6. Complications of pneumonia.

Richard Post, 96. Prominent scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory who researched how to store renewable energy. April 7.

Jean-Louis Cremieux-Brilhac, 98. A Jewish member of the French Resistance in charge of propaganda during World War II. April 8.

Joel Spira, 88. He brought the light dimmer switch to households across the nation and transformed his Lutron Electronics Company into a leading manufacturer of lighting controls. April 8.

Lauren Hill, 19. Freshman at Ohio university who fought an inoperable brain tumor to play college basketball. April 10.

Guenter Grass, 87. Nobel-winning German writer who gave voice to the generation that came of age during the horrors of the Nazi era but later ran into controversy over his own World War II past and stance toward Israel. April 13.

Percy Sledge, 74. He recorded the classic 1966 soul ballad

"When a Man Loves a Woman." April 14.

Robert Griffin, 91. Former U.S. Republican senator whose withdrawal of support hastened President Richard Nixon's resignation during the Watergate scandal. April 16.

Cardinal Francis George, 78. Vigorous defender of Roman Catholic orthodoxy who played a key role in the church's response to the clergy sex abuse scandal and led the U.S. bishops' fight against provisions of Obamacare. April 17.

A. Alfred Taubman, 91. Self-made Michigan billionaire whose philanthropy and business success — including weaving the enclosed shopping mall into American culture — was clouded by a criminal conviction late in his career. April 17.

Mary Doyle Keefe, 92. The model for Norman Rockwell's 1943 "Rosie the Riveter" painting that symbolized the millions of American women who went to work on the home front during World War II. April 21.

Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, 93. Former Auschwitz prisoner and member of Poland's underground World War II resistance who helped save Jews and later served twice as the country's foreign minister. April 24.

Don M. Mankiewicz, 93. Oscar-nominated screenwriter from a legendary Hollywood family who created the television shows "Marcus Welby, M.D." and "Ironside." April 25.

Suzanne Crough Condray, 52. Youngest daughter on the hit 1970s television show "The Partridge Family." April 27.

Jack Ely, 71. Singer known for "Louie Louie," the low-budget recording that became one of the most famous songs of the 20th century. April 28.

Jean Nidetch, 91. New York housewife who tackled her own obesity, then shared her guiding principles with others in meetings that became known as Weight Watchers, the most widely known company of its kind. April 29.

Dan Walker, 92. Combative populist who became Illinois governor after condemning Chicago's reaction to Democratic National Convention demonstrations as "a police riot" and later went to prison for bank fraud. April 29.

Ben E. King, 76. Unforgettable lead singer for the Drifters and solo star whose plaintive baritone graced such pop and rhythm 'n' blues classics as "Stand by Me," "There Goes My Baby" and "Spanish Harlem." April 30.

Frank Olivo, 66. He was the fill-in Santa whose downfield jaunt at a Philadelphia Eagles game in 1968 lives on in sports history for

DEATHS | PAGE 8

Thank You For Your Business!
Johnson Electric, LLP, would like to wish everyone a Happy 2016!

Johnson Electric, LLP

**Rick Merkel • Ben Merkel
Chris Merkel**

• Rural • Residential • Commercial
 • Electrical • Telephone
 • We Trench H₂O Lines, Footings & Electric Lines
 • Our Bucket Truck Reaches 80' PLUS
 • We Set Poles

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

FAST COURTEOUS SERVICE
500 W. 12TH, YANKTON
605-665-5686

LOAFERS

Artisan Bread to Your Door

Yankton's Best Artisan Breads

Over 15 varieties of bread:

- White • Wheat • Baguettes
- Pain d'Epi • Italian • Cuban
- Cinnamon Rolls • Cinnamon Raisin
- Dinner Rolls • Brioche • Iced Buns
- Herb • Bagels

Ask about our subscription program.

Place your holiday order today!

655-4346



Need an Office for a Day or Week?

We have professional office and small conference room space available for short term rentals at Morgen Square.





Morgen Square

Call Marv, 605-338-6170 or John, 605-661-3225

11th & Broadway • Yankton, SD