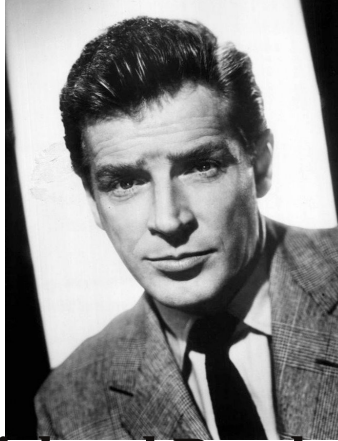




Richard Basehart

August 31, 1914 - September 17, 1984

Los Angeles, California

Richard Basehart - John Richard Basehart - American stage and screen actor whose baritone voice and craggy intensity carried roles from film noir to Federico Fellini and television's *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*, died in Los Angeles on September 17, 1984, after a series of strokes. He was seventy. Born August 31, 1914, in Zanesville, Ohio, he worked newspapers and radio before Broadway success in *The Hasty Heart* and a film career that refused a single genre box.

He Walked by Night, Fourteen Hours, La Strada's Fool, Ishmael in John Huston's *Moby Dick* - Basehart moved between American noir, Italian art cinema, and prestige literary adaptation. Television made him a household face as Admiral Harriman Nelson (1964-68) and later the unseen narrator of *Knight Rider*, a voice that opened each episode like a creed. He narrated documentaries and, weeks before his death, read at the closing ceremony of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics - a civic farewell in the city that had become home.

Colleagues remembered professionalism and a refusal to coast on television familiarity; the late narration work showed the same care as the early stage notices. Westwood Village Memorial Park received his ashes after the strokes ended the working life.

He died in Los Angeles on September 17, 1984. The range still startles: clown, sailor, admiral, narrator - one instrument, many keys.

Basehart's gift was seriousness without stiffness - a voice that made adventure feel consequential. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 17 remembers the Ohio-born actor who spanned Fellini and Irwin Allen with

the same gravity.

Services

Died in Los Angeles, California, September 17, 1984. Stage and screen actor; star of Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea; narrator of Knight Rider; appeared in La Strada and Moby Dick.

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