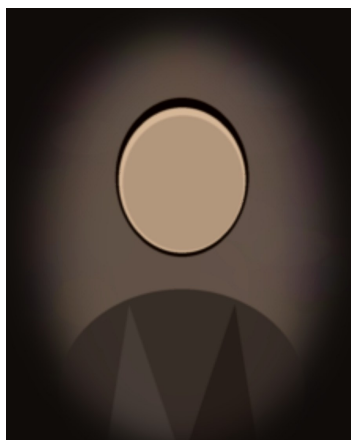




Tom Petty

October 20, 1950 - October 2, 2017

Santa Monica, California

Thomas Earl Petty - American singer-songwriter who made Florida grit and California highways sound like the same honest road - died in Santa Monica, California, on October 2, 2017. He was sixty-six. Born October 20, 1950, in Gainesville, Florida, he led Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers through decades of radio that never needed costume changes: Free Fallin', American Girl, Refugee, and a shelf of songs that treated freedom as something you earned with a guitar and a stubborn jaw.

He also stood with the Traveling Wilburys and kept touring until the week before he died. Listeners trusted the voice because it refused to decorate hard news. He collapsed at home, was taken to UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica, and died after cardiac arrest linked to an accidental overdose of medications.

Gainesville taught him the long drive; Los Angeles taught him how large a song can become without losing the porch. He wrote as if America still needed plain heartbreak.

He died in Santa Monica on October 2, 2017. Somewhere a car radio is still catching the chorus before the next exit.

Petty's gift was durable American rock - making stubborn tenderness feel like weather. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so October 2 remembers the Gainesville songwriter who made highway miles into hymns.

Services

Died in Santa Monica, California, October 2, 2017. Singer-songwriter; Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers;

Traveling Wilburys; Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

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