

Grammy winning singer Natalie Cole dies

BY SANDY COHEN AND MESFIN FEKADU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Natalie Cole, the daughter of jazz legend Nat King Cole, has died. She carved out her own success with R&B hits like "Our Love" and "This Will Be" before triumphantly intertwining their legacies to make his "Unforgettable" their signature hit through technological wizardry. She was 65.

While Cole was a Grammy winner in her own right, she had her greatest success in 1991 when she re-recorded her father's classic hits — with him on the track — for the album "Unforgettable ... With Love." It became a multiplatinum smash and garnered her multiple Grammy Awards, including album of the year.

Cole died Thursday evening, Dec. 31, at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles due to complications from ongoing health issues, her family said in a statement.

"Natalie fought a fierce, courageous battle, dying how she lived ... with dignity, strength and honor. Our beloved Mother and sister will be greatly missed and remain UNFORGETTABLE in our hearts forever," read the statement from her son Robert Yancy and sisters Timolin and Casey Cole.

"I had to hold back the tears. I know

how hard she fought," said Aretha Franklin in a statement. "She fought for so long. She was one of the greatest singers of our time."

Other celebrities honored Cole on social media. In a tweet, actress Marlee Matlin called Cole a lovely songbird and a great actress, writing "she is now singing in heaven." Patti LaBelle tweeted, "She will be truly missed but her light will shine forever!"

Natalie Cole, born in 1950, had battled drug problems and hepatitis that forced her to undergo a kidney transplant in May 2009. Cole's older sister, Carol "Cookie" Cole, died the day she received the transplant. Their brother, Nat Kelly Cole, died in 1995.

Natalie Cole was inspired by her dad at an early age and auditioned to sing with him when she was just 11 years old. She was 15 when he died of lung cancer, in 1965.

She began as an R&B singer but later gravitated toward the smooth pop and jazz standards that her father loved.

Cole made her recording debut in 1975 with "Inseparable." The music industry welcomed her with two Grammy awards in 1976 — one for best new artist and one for best female R&B vocal performance for her buoyant hit "This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)."



Photo by Victoria Will/Invision/AP, File

In a Wednesday, June 26, 2013 file photo, Grammy winning singer-songwriter Natalie Cole poses for a portrait in promotion of her new album "Natalie Cole en Espanol," in New York. Cole, the daughter of jazz legend Nat "King" Cole who carried on his musical legacy, died Thursday night, Dec. 31, 2015, according to publicist Maureen O'Connor. She was 65.

She also worked as an actress, with appearances on TV's "Touched by an Angel" and "Grey's Anatomy."

Cole was born to Nat "King" Cole and his wife, Maria Ellington Cole, a onetime vocalist with Duke Ellington who was no relation to the great bandleader.

The family eventually included five children.

Natalie Cole started singing seriously in college, performing in small clubs.

But in her 2000 autobiography, "Angel on My Shoulder," Cole discussed how she had battled heroin, crack cocaine and alcohol addiction for many years. She spent six months in rehab in 1983.

When she announced in 2008 that she had been diagnosed with hepatitis C, a liver disease spread through contact with

infected blood, she blamed her past intravenous drug use.

Cole received chemotherapy to treat the hepatitis and "within four months, I had kidney failure," she told CNN's Larry King in 2009. She needed dialysis three times a week until she received a donor kidney on May 18, 2009. The organ procurement agency One Legacy facilitated the donation from a family that had requested that their donor's organ go to Cole if it was a match.

Cole toured through much of her illness, often receiving dialysis at hospitals around the globe.

"I think that I am a walking testimony that you can have scars," she told People magazine. "You can go through turbulent times and still have victory in your life."

Police chief announces promotions

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On Jan. 8 at 4 p.m., a promotional ceremony is scheduled in the Home and Garden Building of the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds. The highest level promotion is Cpt. Catrina Thompson who will advance to assistant police chief, Police Chief Barry Rountree announced.

Thompson is a 22-year-veteran of the Winston-Salem Police Department. She currently serves as the commander of Criminal

Investigations Division of the Investigative Services Bureau.

In 1994, Thompson graduated with Winston-Salem Police Department Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) class 34. Four years later, she was promoted to the rank of Senior Police Officer. In 2003, she advanced to the rank of Sergeant, then to the rank of Lieutenant in 2006 and in 2014, progressed to the rank of Captain. During her tenure, Thompson has served in the Patrol Division,

Recruiting, Training Division and Criminal Investigations Division.

"I'm humbled by my promotion to the rank of assistant police chief," Thompson said. "I'm also honored to serve the citizens of Winston-Salem in this capacity and I feel blessed to work with some of the most professional law enforcement officers in the nation." Thompson assumed her new duties on Monday, Jan. 4 and oversees the Investigative Services Bureau.

Rountree also

announced Lt. Danny Watts has been promoted to captain. He is a 26-year veteran of the Winston-Salem Police Department. He currently serves as the Training and Recruiting Lieutenant in the Operations Support Division. Watts started his career with the Winston-Salem Police Department in Sept. 1989. He was promoted to the rank of Senior Police Officer in 1994, then to the rank of Sergeant in 1999, and to the rank of Lieutenant in 2010. During his tenure, he served in var-

ious areas to include the Patrol Division, Recruiting Unit, Planning and Accreditation Unit, as well as, the Downtown Bike Patrol Unit.

Watts also assumed his new duties on Jan. 4 and serves in the Professional Standards Division.

Additional promotions from sergeant to lieutenant include Sgt. Renee Melly and Sgt. Robert Peterson. Peterson's promotion was effective as of Jan. 4 and Melly's will be active on Feb. 1.

Promotions from cor-

poral to sergeant include Cpls. Greg Dorn and Rudy Richardson, who also assumed their new duties effective Jan. 4. Cpl. Verron Chue's promotion to sergeant will take effect Feb. 1.

Promotions from police officer to corporal include Officers Thomas Albert, Curtis Dawkins, James Gerald and David Swayney Jr. Their promotions became effective on Jan. 4, and Officer Shena Nelson's promotion to corporal goes into effect Feb. 1.



Photo By Tevin Stinson

Rev. Omar L. Dykes delivers the keynote address during the annual Emancipation Celebration Program held at Morning Star Baptist Church on Friday, Jan. 1

Students

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giving back to the community," said Scales. "Even with their busy schedules they find the time to give back."

Muhammad has been a member of the varsity basketball team at Atkins High School since she was a freshman. While chasing a state championship, she also finds time to participate in a number of boards and committees at Emmanuel Baptist Church, including Community Roots and a holiday grief counseling seminar to name a few.

Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy senior Treyandrea Farid serves as the president of the youth ministry and is a member of the nursing ministry at Waughtown Baptist Church.

Farid is also a student athlete and serves as the assistant athletic trainer for a number of teams at her school.

While maintaining a 4.7 grade point average and a part-time job at Arby's, West Forsyth senior Tyler Davis still finds time to volunteer at the Salvation Army, the Special Olympics and participate in

Crosby Scholars. Davis is also a member of a number of community outreach organizations at First Baptist Church.

The keynote speaker for this year's event was Rev. Omar L. Dykes, pastor of St. John CME Church. A native of Chester, Pa., Dykes holds a B.A. degree in history from Miles College and a Master of Divinity degree from Phillips School of Theology at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Ga.

He has also received numerous awards from the religious community as well as other organizations. During his speech, Dykes said that during a time where anger and hatred seem to be the order of the day, citizens must rise up and come together as one.

"We are indeed our brother's keeper," said Dykes. "No matter how big the celebration, we must remember that there are still people in our community who are hungry. If we understand the power of community, we cannot sit in a palace while our neighbors lie in ruins."

A number of local and state political figures including Mayor Allen Joiner, N.C. Senator Rev.

Dr. Paul Lowe, State Representative Evelyn Terry and Council Member Derwin Montgomery were in attendance during the commemoration ceremony and award presentation held at Morning Star Baptist Church.

Prior to the reading of the document signed during the Civil War by President Abraham Lincoln, Montgomery said although there were a number of factors that forced Lincoln to sign the document, it was born out of the right conditions.

"For me this is a time for reflection but a time for action as well," he continued. "Today as well, look at the high rates of poverty and large gaps in education at institutions for our young people. What we need is for the right conditions to come together to force things to happen in our favor."

"Fredrick Douglass said there is no progress without struggle. So for us today,

we must make sure the struggle continues so that we can continue to see progress." Montgomery said.



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