



Soul Legend Bobby Womack Dead at 70

Veteran singer had numerous hits, yet suffered multiple health issues throughout seven-decade career

By JASON NEWMAN
JUNE 27, 2014 7:02 PM ET



Bobby Womack, the legendary soul singer whose career spanned seven decades, died Friday at age 70. A representative for Womack's label XL Recordings confirmed the singer's death to *Rolling Stone*, but said the cause of death was currently unknown.

Look Back at Bobby Womack's Incredible Career in Photos

The son of two musicians, Womack began his career as a member of Curtis Womack and the Womack Brothers with his siblings Curtis, Harry, Cecil and Friendly Jr. After Sam Cooke signed the group to his SAR Records in 1960, they released a handful of gospel singles before changing their name to the Valentinos and earning success with a more secular, soul- and pop-influenced sound. In 1964, one month after the Valentinos released their hit "It's All Over Now," the Rolling Stones put out their version, which went to Number One on the U.K. singles charts.

Three months after the death of Cooke in 1964, Womack married Cooke's widow, Barbara Campbell, and the Valentinos disbanded after the collapse of SAR Records. After leaving the group, Womack became a session musician, playing guitar on several albums, including Aretha Franklin's landmark *Lady Soul*, before releasing his debut album, *Fly Me to the Moon*, in 1968. A string of successful R&B albums would follow, including *Understanding and Across 110th Street*, both released in 1972, 1973's *Facts of Life* and 1974's *Lookin' for a Love Again*.

Bobby Womack (1944-2014): Read Our Full Obituary

After the death of his brother, Harry, in 1974, Womack's career stalled, but was revived in 1981 with the R&B hit "If You Think You're Lonely Now." Throughout most of the Eighties, the singer struggled with drug addiction, eventually checking himself into a rehabilitation center for treatment. A series of health problems would follow, including diabetes, pneumonia, colon cancer and the early signs of Alzheimer's disease, though it was unclear if any of these ailments contributed to his death. Womack was declared cancer-free in 2012.

In 2012, Womack began a career renaissance with the release of *The Bravest Man in the Universe*, his first album in more than 10 years. Produced by Damon Albarn and XL's Richard Russell, the album made *Rolling Stone's* 50 Best Albums of 2012 alongside numerous other critical accolades. "You know more at 65 than you did at 25. I understand the songs much better now," Womack told *Rolling Stone* at the time. "It's not about 14 Rolls Royces and two Bentleys. Even if this album never sells a nickel, I know I put my best foot forward." Upon his death, Womack was in the process of recording his next album for XL, tentatively titled *The Best Is Yet to Come* and reportedly featuring contributions by Stevie Wonder, Rod Stewart and Snoop Dogg.

Hear Bobby Womack's 10 Essential Tracks

Womack was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2009. "My very first thought was — I wish I could call Sam Cooke and share this moment with him," Womack said. "This is just about as exciting to me as being able to see Barack Obama become the first black President of the United States of America! It proves that, if you're blessed to be able to wait on what's important to you, a lot of things will change in life."

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- Tyrone B. · 16 hours ago
R.I.P Bobby
It keeps me awake that he sings the song of the poet Ishmael Reed "The Author Reflects on his Thirty-Fifth Birthday" on his thirty fifth year and dead 35 years later at the age of seventy
<http://articles.latimes.com/19...>
<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=z...>
- Cynt · 17 hours ago
Thanks for the Music Bobby now take your Rest..
- Cynt · 17 hours ago
I just added his music to my Pandora list a couple o weeks ago...my two most Favorite songs No matter how high I get & if you think you're Lonely now though he had many good hits. I could hear ministry in his music. I truly believe he missed his calling because his lyrics spoke volume.
- Combatman · 18 hours ago
You've done your job Bobby & you did it well! I've always been a true believer of you & your music, loved your voice & the whole nine! Rest in peace my brother, I'll never forget you!
- 7734real · 19 hours ago
Thanks for sharing your talent and love of music with us. R.I.P. Bobby
- Audrey Trotter-Jones · 21 hours ago
Miss you Harry Hippy. Thats the way I feel about ya. sleep in peace, Mr. Womack.
- whamo · 21 hours ago
You name it. He did it.
- Victoria Ryan-Bailey · a day ago
Thanks for using your talent and sharing your voice, gift and songs with us. May God bless you in Heaven.
- FillyFanatik · a day ago
Bobby Womack..truly a legendary musician and singer if there ever was one. Im glad he made peace with his personal demos over the years....and happy that he realized a lot of his own dreams. RIP Mr Womack.
- kimanderson → FillyFanatik · a day ago
Are you unable to take decision between job and child? Now you can focus on both. Be a perfect parent while work also - Hit the site,.....
Copy This Link In Your Browser And Following Next Steps.....\n===== tinyurl.com/JOBSONLINE2014
- Patricia Hill Abram · a day ago
His music taught me so much about life.
- Dazzer · a day ago
RIP Bobby, "how could you break my heart?" A true legend
- Samfan · a day ago
Bobby Womack - a traitor to his "friend" Sam Cooke -the TRUE legend.
- lola → Samfan · 15 hours ago
The true legend who was killed while cheating on said wife... I think he was dead and his wife was free marry whom she wanted.
- Samfan → lola · 3 hours ago
yes he was cheating. Yes he was dead. Yes she was fee to do whatever she wanted. None of that erases the awful betrayal that Womack did by wearing his clothes and jewelry. He would have married her sooner but needed to turn 21 first. This is a friend? No ,this is a scoundrel.
- iamdivasure1 → Samfan · a day ago
RIP he was a good musician. he married Sam Cooke wife the one that signed him up? I saw that being slipped in. OK then. you are right.
- Michael Ingmire · a day ago
Rest in peace.
- Derrick Dabney · a day ago
Rest in peace Bobby Womack! A great entertainer.I had the pleasure of meeting him at the Front Row in Cleveland Ohio in the 80's.I was back stag in his dressing room with his crew and family.We had a great time eating and drinking.After that he put on a great show i will never forget.
- Nita · a day ago
My heart is breaking. One of my favorite performers. Never got to see you in concert.. Rest in peace
- Gunna Black · a day ago
Rest in Peace, truly a legend! Sending love to Curtis, Meech and all family and friends from myself and all of us at 13 West Entertainment.
- Sammy U · a day ago
You filthy doosbags at RS had to put something about obama don't you? You lins right on Christians unless they're black because that's what keeps them in line right?
- Nick Freno → Sammy U · a day ago
Oh poor victimized conservatives. Always playing the victim. Here's a violin for your troubles moron.
- Joe → Sammy U · a day ago
Please take your meds.
- neutral_comer → Sammy U · a day ago
I can't believe there were two people idiotic enough in all of the Internets to like that comment.
- Michael Larson → neutral_comer · a day ago
The internet is full of these people.
- Butch → Sammy U · a day ago
Chill, it wasn't "RS" that mentioned Obama doosbag. It was Mr. Womack, the deceased musician. Have a little doosbag. It is dead and his own opinions.
- Aries Storm · 2 days ago
One of the last few legends I always wanted to meet home too soon. The list is now getting shorter and shorter. www.tripleX2000.com..... R.I.P. Poet
- Aries Storm · 2 days ago
I think Sam already knew, so no need to wish to call him up.....R.I.P Poet
- Peter · 2 days ago
R.I.P. Bobby Womack. A true soul legend in the music world.
- Strychnine · 2 days ago
"The bravest man in the universe, is the one that has forgiven first." Thank you Bobby Womack. R.I.P.
- Teo Watts · 2 days ago
One of the last interviews: <http://www.glidemagazine.com/1...>
- Miles Coltrane · 2 days ago
Rest in Peace to the man Bobby Womack. I was just listening to The Valentinos yesterday. Man, "Across 110th Street" was my theme song. I would play it and walk around like a badass.
- Tiger Gwynne → Miles Coltrane · an hour ago
Quentin Tarantino should also receive honorable mention for reviving this hit in his movie "Jackie Brown".
- nevilleross → Miles Coltrane · 5 hours ago
The song was meant to be a warning about that kind of life mentioned in the song.
- MK · 2 days ago
Last time I saw Bobby perform was the Corilaz Plastic Beach tour. His vocals were pure power soul. Glad I got a chance to see him only for a moment.
- Church christ-Gold · 2 days ago
Last of a dying breed
- Trisha Clark · 2 days ago
One of my favorite performers! I love you, Bobby. May you rest in peace!!!
- MrsMommy · 2 days ago
Rest in peace, Bobby. And thank you for all of the great music.
- sj · 2 days ago
Mediamass.com I've read your article that this is a hoax...but as you can see this was verified by a representative of Bobby Womack's record label. I think Rolling Stone is intelligent enough to verify it through more than 1 source....rest peacefully with all your friends Bobby I'm sure they'll be glad to see you....my condolences to all his family and friends
- Shien · 2 days ago
The great choir just changed! RIP Soul Singer.
- Melissa Cross · 2 days ago
<http://en.mediamass.net/people...>
Might wanna do some digging on that.....
- Mary Lewis · 2 days ago
THIS IS A HOAX.
- GuitarJam · 2 days ago
what a loss. Another great Soul singer passes. I think Al Green is the only one left
- Rachel Wells · 2 days ago
RIP Bobby.. heaven is the sweeter
- Crackrock Chris · 2 days ago
So sad, easily one of the greatest musicians of all time! A true legend!
- DJS425 · 2 days ago
WE'S LOST A LEGEND. I am heartbroken!! "Across 110th Street" one of my all-time favorite songs.
- Delia Jamison · 2 days ago
"Someday We'll All Be Free"
- Slau' · 2 days ago
I really want to believe that's it's a hoax but man... the sources all say different things now
- Al Gates · 2 days ago
Take me,"Across 110th St.". So much soul...
- Sugano Svetlana · 2 days ago
SO Sad to hear. Bobby Womack was a Grand Performer.

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