

OBITUARIES



GREG DULLI

'BROTHER AND INSPIRATION'

Dave Rosser joined a later lineup of the rock band Afghan Whigs. Despite cancer, he contributed to the group's latest album, "In Spades." Above, Rosser, right, works last fall with producer Mike Napolitano.

DAVE ROSSER

Afghan Whigs guitarist who recorded despite cancer battle

BY RANDY LEWIS

Rock guitarist Dave Rosser, a latter-day member of the Afghan Whigs, died Tuesday after a battle with inoperable colon cancer. He was 50.

"It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our friend, brother and inspiration. Dave Rosser passed away peacefully last evening surrounded by love," according to a note the group posted Wednesday on its Facebook page. "Thank you to all who kept him in their hearts. He is forever in ours."

Rosser had long been friends with the hard-hitting rock band's lead singer, Greg Dulli, and played with him in the Gutter Twins and the

Twilight Singers, groups that occupied Dulli after the Whigs went on hiatus in 2001.

The band reunited in 2011 and performed the following spring in London for the All Tomorrow's Parties festival and, subsequently, at Lollapalooza.

In 2013, Dulli assembled a revised lineup that included Rosser — and bassist John Curley, the only remaining original member — to perform with R&B-pop star Usher at the South by Southwest Music Festival in Austin, Texas, that year.

The Whigs released their first new album in 16 years in 2014, "Do to the Beast," just in time for an appearance at the Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival.

Rosser's illness became the focal point of two benefit

concerts the band announced in November and staged in December in New Orleans and Los Angeles, for which the act performed its 1996 album, "Black Love," in its entirety.

"Dave Rosser has been my close friend and bandmate for over a decade now," Dulli wrote at the time. "By doing these shows for him we hope to ease any financial stress he may face as he pursues treatment to combat his illness."

Among the guests who joined the group for those shows were Ani DiFranco, Mark Lanegan, Moby, C.C. Adcock & the Lafayette Marquis, Morning 40 Federation, King James & the Special Men and Carina Round.

In spite of his cancer,

Rosser contributed to the Whigs' latest album, "In Spades," which was released in May.

"I just finished the first six months of chemo and am taking a break," Rosser told Guitar World magazine around the time the album was released. "I'm feeling pretty good and my spirits are good. I record a lot at the house and have been making a lot of music with friends. I'm staying busy and have purpose. I'll try to get out and meet the band on a few stops in Europe where they'll be for a few days."

Details on Rosser's survivors and plans for a memorial service were not immediately available.

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Kern County sheriff's deputy booked

Officer suspected in a domestic violence incident that occurred Wednesday is arrested and placed on leave.

BY VERONICA ROCHA

A Kern County sheriff's deputy was arrested Thursday on suspicion of spousal battery and false imprisonment, authorities said.

The Kern County Sheriff's Office released few details about the domestic violence incident, saying only that it occurred Wednesday and involved Deputy Lawrence Thatcher.

Thatcher, an 11-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office, was taken into custody, and officials said he will be booked into Central Receiving Facility.

He was placed on administrative leave, authorities said.

His father, who is also named Lawrence Thatcher and was a Kern County sheriff's deputy, and two other deputies were honored in 2003 by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for their work in a case involving two Antelope Valley teenage girls who were abducted Aug. 1, 2002, by Roy Ratliff, said sheriff's Senior Deputy Danisha Ashley.

The younger Thatcher was assigned to the Ridgecrest station, Sheriff Donny Youngblood told KBAK-TV.

He is at least the third Kern County sheriff's deputy this year to face criminal charges.

In May, two former deputies, Logan August and Derrick Penney, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute and possession with the in-

tent to distribute marijuana, U.S. Atty. Phillip A. Talbert said.

Federal authorities said the former deputies conspired to steal marijuana from the Kern County Sheriff's Office storage unit. The marijuana had been seized during criminal investiga-

tions. They have agreed to forfeit any money they earned from the trafficking operation.

August and Penney face up to five years in prison.

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NUTTALL, Sister Roberta Joan

August 26, 1940 - June 26, 2017

Nuttall, Roberta Joan, C.S.J., age 76, passed away on Monday, June 26, 2017 in Los Angeles, CA. Born August 26, 1940 in Palo Alto, California, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet since March 19, 1959. Sister Roberta first met the Sisters of St. Joseph when her parents enrolled her and her six siblings at Star of the Sea Academy in San Francisco.

Following her graduation, she entered community and thereafter began her ministry as an elementary school teacher. Throughout her life, Roberta used her talents in a variety of ministries including classroom teaching, preparing children for reception of the sacraments, tutoring, office work, and serving persons with AIDS. Though health issues limited her energy, she embraced each of her missions with a spirit of dedication. After moving to Carondelet Center and joining Holy Family Community, she continued to care for and visit others. She held a strong view of "celebrating the power of forgiveness and reconciliation as experienced through the Great Love of God."

She is survived by her sister, Marilyn (Joe) Lewis.

A Service of Remembrance will be held at the Carondelet Center in Los Angeles on Monday, July 10, 2017 at 4:30PM with Funeral Mass at 6:30PM. Graveside service will be held Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 10:00AM at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City, CA. Donations in memory of Sister Roberta Nuttall may be sent to: Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, 11999 Chalon Road, Los Angeles, CA 90049. Please visit the mortuary's website, www.LAFuneral.com to send the family messages, share memories, or to obtain directions to the services.



OSHEN, Blossom Beverly

December 25, 1926 - June 19, 2017

Blossom Tanhauser Oshen died peacefully in her sleep on June 19, 2017 in Hollywood, CA. Born in the Bronx, NY, Blossom attended NYU, where she met her husband, Len, who predeceased her in 2010. She is survived by her sons Jeff, in West Hollywood, Richard, in Altadena, and granddaughter, Rachael in Hong Kong.

A celebration of life service will be held at Hollywood Forever on July 17th at 1:00pm.



SEYMOUR, Dorothy 'Mimi'

March 17, 1924 - June 26, 2017

Our "Mimi" lived a long, loving life full of laughter, many pets, and endless crafts. Her leadership, wit, and kindness live on in her family, friends, and the many children from Mimi's Daycare. She is reunited with her husband Jack, sister, son and niece.

THOMAS, Margaret

August 22, 1921 - June 19, 2017

Beloved mother and sister, talented artist and singer. She lived a long and blessed life. She is survived by her two daughters Charlotte and Susan, and sister Mary Bodner. Services to be held on July 1st at 1:00 PM at Holy Cross Cemetery and Mortuary, 5835 Slauson Ave. in Culver City, CA.

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BOLAS, Mary T.

January 2, 1933 - June 3, 2017

Born to Kyriakos "Charlie" and Alexandra Nickolaou in Chicago, IL. Husband Theodore N. Bolas (m.8-21-1955); children Michael "Niko" Bolas, Nikoleta (Nick) Yukich, Mark (Nanci) Bolas, & Alexa Bolas; grandchildren Ben, Sundie & Kalen Yukich and Beth & Theo Bolas; sister Sophronia N. Tomaras. Lived happily in Los Angeles on Michelorena St. for 59 years. Adored by her family and cherished friends. Please share memories at: goo.gl/JJLtbY and www.bolas.com



KNAPP, Elizabeth Wood

March 3, 1943 - June 20, 2017

Elizabeth Wood Knapp, a pioneer in online interactive computer software, angel investor, and philanthropist, passed peacefully in her home in Edwards, Colorado, with her husband Bud by her side. She was 74.

In the late 1960s, after graduating from Wellesley College with a BA in Economics, Betsy began her entrepreneurial career working at the Sloan School of Management at MIT, a position which became the launching pad to her leadership in the computer industry. Soon after, she became a founding member and then president of Telmar Communications Corp., a New York City-based company that pioneered online interactive computer access to consumer behavior data bases, and decision support systems for the media and advertising industries. An accomplished system designer and programmer, Betsy led the creation of Telmar's operating system and interactive business software.

After marrying Bud Knapp and moving to Los Angeles in 1979, Betsy was the Senior Vice President and Director of Knapp Communications, the Los Angeles-based owner and publisher of Architectural Digest, Bon Appétit, and other magazines and books by The Knapp Press where she was responsible for the company's transition to interactive computer technology and the creation of electronic media products.

In 1986, she founded Wood Knapp & Co. to produce and distribute quality special-interest home video programming, and Wood Knapp Direct, a direct marketer with an annual circulation of 5-million catalogues. As a producer of original video programming, Betsy and her company created award-winning shows with Angela Lansbury, Rita Moreno and others. Betsy was also the founder and chief executive officer of BigPicture Investors LLC, which provides investment capital, management expertise and consulting to startups and early-stage companies, focusing on core technologies in a variety of industries. In the mid-1990s, to follow her passion for new business creation, Betsy became actively involved in investing in new technology start-ups.

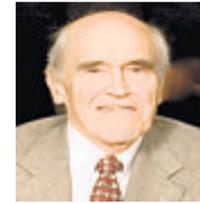
A proud alumna of Wellesley College, Betsy carried with her the perspectives and experiences that so define a "Wellesley woman" into her career as a businesswoman, a leader and a philanthropist. In Los Angeles, Betsy's involvement with UCLA led to her appointment as the first woman to chair the UCLA Foundation, a \$1billion+ fund which manages private donations for the benefit of the public university. At the time of her death, she served on the Board of the UCLA Technology Development Group which oversees university intellectual property, licensing, and industry-sponsored research. She also served on the Board of Advisors of UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management. The Knapp Foundation, established in 1993 to make grants in education, medical research and the visual arts, continues to direct much of its focus on Wellesley College and the UCLA Anderson School of Management, where the endowed Betsy Wood Knapp Professorship in Innovation and Creativity and the Knapp Venture Competition for excellence in business planning and venture initiation continue to reflect that vision.

Betsy was a founding member and Trustee of the Committee of 200, a by-invitation association of women entrepreneurs and corporate executives, of the Wellesley College Business Leadership Council, and The Trusteeship. She was also a member of Women Corporate Directors and the International Women's Forum. As a Trustee of Wellesley College, she successfully co-chaired a \$400 million comprehensive campaign from 2000-2005. Provost and Dean of Wellesley College Andrew Shennan recalls working with Betsy for twenty years. "Never have I encountered a more creative, daring, or loyal Trustee."

In the 1980s, the Knapps fell in love with the Vail Valley through their many ski trips. They purchased a condominium in Vail, and later settled on the land in Edwards, Colorado that is now Knapp Ranch. Together, the Knapps conceived and built the ranch as an informal country retreat where "being connected" centers on enjoying the richness of nature and the camaraderie of friends in an extraordinarily quiet and un-hurried setting. The Knapps moved permanently from Bel Air, California to the Knapp Ranch in 2013 allowing Betsy to intimately engage in preserving the natural beauty and health of the land. She had a deep passion for incorporating rigorous scientific research in all the decisions made around land use and land management on the ranch saying, "What we do here reflects our values and personal preferences, and our interest in linking science with the way we make decisions about the future." Betsy devoted herself to the creation of a high altitude organic farming project at the ranch and her enthusiasm to grow clean, delicious food under Mother Nature's guidance was truly infectious.

In addition to her husband Bud, Betsy is survived by her brother James Wood (Jean) of West Newton, Massachusetts; her sister, Charlotte Wood Wheeler (Pierce) of Tenafly, New Jersey; stepsons Brian of Charlotte, North Carolina and Aaron (Maureen) of Torrance, California; and stepdaughter Laura of Sherman Oaks, California. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Madelyn of Madison, Wisconsin; Matthias of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Caroline and Joshua of Rancho Palos Verdes, California and Everett of Cold Spring, New York.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made in memory of Elizabeth Wood Knapp to The Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation at www.cholangiocarcinoma.org. Stories can be shared and tributes made at <http://www.elizabethwoodknapp.co/>.



DOWNER, Daniel B.

January 17, 1919 - June 15, 2017

Daniel Bush "Dan" Downer, 98, a resident of San Marino for 63 years, passed away June 15 at his home, in peace, with his children by his side.

Dan was born in St. Louis and raised in Newton, Massachusetts. His family relocated to Southern California in 1939, and Dan graduated from Pomona College in 1941. He served with the Army Air Corps in Fairbanks, Alaska, and married Mary Lou Geis, of South Pasadena, in Juneau, September 1, 1945. The couple returned to Los Angeles in 1946 where Dan began a 50-year career as an award-winning producer of informational films, becoming a founder and the first president of the Industrial Film Producers Association. He and Mary Lou moved to San Marino in 1954 where they raised their four children and Dan was involved in many church, city, and scouting activities. Dan was a skilled outdoorsman, an avid sailor, enjoyed travel, and played the drums his whole life — most recently with the Pasadena-based Maestros. He was a talented and witty writer — a frequent emcee and performer at community events. Dan was a principled, compassionate man with a zest for life; charming, unassuming and honest. He was devoted to his family and a welcome presence to his many friends.

Dan was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Lou, in 2014. He is survived by his children, David, Richard, Steven, and Christina, their families and many nieces and nephews.

There will be a memorial service at 11 a.m., Friday, July 7 in the San Marino Community Church.



SCHMIDT, Cletus V.

January 1, 1929 - June 17, 2017

Cletus Vincent Schmidt, born January 1, 1929, led an extraordinary life. Cletus was the seventh of the eight children of Joseph and Barbara Schmidt. He lived through the Dust Bowl in Spearville, Kansas, until he moved to California at age 11. He proved to be an excellent all-around athlete and made varsity basketball for Mount Carmel High School as a freshman.

He worked in San Francisco for his oldest brother Paul in the summer of 1945. It was there he contracted what was expected to be a fatal case of polio. His family was told he would not survive and he was given the Last Rites. If he survived, he would never walk again. The physicians were wrong on both counts.

Cletus taught himself first to walk under the cover of darkness at the hospital. Through intensive exercise and incredible will power he eventually played a number of sports including volleyball and racquetball. He played well into his 60s. He also used his competitive nature to exceed academically. He matriculated to UCLA both as an undergraduate and for law school. He became a successful attorney.

Cletus married the love of his life Marlene Gloria Spreitzer in 1956. They had four children, Dianne, Richard, John and Michael. He became the proud grandfather of 10 grandchildren. Cletus loved to compete in all aspects of his life. There was no challenge too daunting. He was a charismatic leader. But above all, Cletus would be proud to be remembered as a father. He cherished that role, not only with his own children, but also with his large extended family and even with his children's friends.

Cletus left this world on June 17, 2017 on his own terms to be with his forever gal, Marlene. He will be sorely missed.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Christopher Reeve spinal foundation

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