

# Guitar rock legend Eddie Van Halen dies of cancer at 65

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eddie Van Halen, the guitar virtuoso whose blinding speed, control and innovation propelled his band Van Halen into one of hard rock's biggest groups, fueled the unmistakable fiery solo in Michael Jackson's hit "Beat It" and became elevated to the status of rock god, has died. He was 65.

A person close to Van Halen's family confirmed the rocker died Tuesday,

Oct. 6, due to cancer.

With his distinct solos, Eddie Van Halen fueled the ultimate California party band and helped knock disco off the charts starting in the late 1970s with his band's self-titled debut album and then with the blockbuster record "1984," which contains the classics "Jump," "Panama" and "Hot for Teacher."

Van Halen is among the top 20 best-selling artists of all time, and the band was inducted into the Rock

and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007. Rolling Stone magazine put Eddie Van Halen at No. 8 in its list of the 100 greatest guitarists.

Eddie Van Halen was an autodidact who could play almost any instrument but couldn't read music. He was a classically trained pianist who created some of the most distinctive guitar riffs in rock history. He was a Dutch immigrant who was considered one of the greatest American guitarists of his generation.

"You changed our world. You were the Mozart of rock guitar. Travel safe rockstar," Motley Crue's Nikki Sixx said on Twitter.

Eddie Van Halen was born in Amsterdam and his family immigrated to California in 1962 when he was 7. His father was a big band clarinetist who rarely found work after coming to the U.S., and their mother was a maid who had dreams of her sons being classical pianists.



Greg Allen/Invision/AP, File

David Lee Roth, left, and Eddie Van Halen of Van Halen perform on Aug. 13, 2015, in Wantagh, New York. Van Halen, who had cancer, died Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020. He was 65.

## U.S. trade deficit up to \$67.1 billion in August

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. trade deficit rose in August to the highest level in 14 years.

The Commerce Department reported Tuesday, Oct. 6, the gap between the goods and services the United States sells and what it buys abroad climbed 5.9% in August to \$67.1 billion, highest since August 2006. Exports rose 2.2% to \$171.9 billion on a surge in shipments of soybeans, but imports rose more — up 3.2% to \$239 billion — led by purchases of crude oil, cars and auto parts.

The U.S. deficit with the rest of the world in the trade of goods such as airplanes and appliances set a record \$83.9 billion in August. The United States ran a surplus of \$16.8 billion in the trade of services such as banking and education, lowest since

January 2012.

The politically sensitive deficit in the trade of goods with China fell 6.7% to \$26.4 billion.

So far this year, the United States has recorded a trade gap of \$421.8 billion, up 5.7% from January-August 2019.

Hampered by the coronavirus and its fallout on the world economy, total U.S. trade — exports plus imports — is down 15.1% so far this year to \$3.2 trillion.

President Donald Trump campaigned on a pledge to bring down America's persistent trade deficits. He imposed taxes on imports of steel, aluminum and most products from China, among other things; and renegotiated a North American trade pact in an effort to encourage more production in the United States.

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