

Isabel Sanford of 'The Jeffersons' Dies

Was first black to win best actress Emmy

(AP)—Actress Isabel Sanford, best known as "Weezy," Louise Jefferson on the television sitcom "The Jeffersons," died of natural causes, her publicist said Monday. She was 86.

Sanford died Friday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where she had been hospitalized since July 4, said Brad Lemack. Her daughter, Pamela Ruff, was at her side, he said.

Her health had waned after undergoing preventive surgery on a neck artery 10 months ago, Lemack said.

Sanford co-starred with Sherman Hemsley from 1975 to 1985 on CBS' "The Jeffersons," a spin-off of the popular series "All in the Family," in which she also appeared.

In 1981, Sanford became the first black woman to receive an Emmy for Best Actress in a Com-



Isabel Sanford and Sherman Hemsley performed on the television sitcom "The Jeffersons."

edy Series for her work on "The Jeffersons."

"Isabel was our queen and that's what we called her on the show,"

said Marla Gibbs, who played the Jeffersons' maid Florence Johnston.

Gibbs said that even before the

hit sitcom, Sanford's comedic talents were evident during acting auditions.

"Isabel would come in and just light up the room and start telling stories and having everybody in stitches," Gibbs said.

Sanford, a native New Yorker, was joined by "Jeffersons" creator Norman Lear and others in January when she received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"Here with stars in my eyes - something that I dreamed about when I was 9 years old," she said at the time. "There are others that deserve it, but let everybody get their own."

Sanford made her feature film debut in the 1967 classic, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner."

Recently, Sanford lent her voice to "The Simpsons" and appeared in commercial campaigns for Denny's restaurants and retailer Old Navy.

Besides her daughter, Sanford is survived by two sons, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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Bush's Military Records Destroyed

(AP)—Military payroll records that could more fully document President Bush's whereabouts during his service in the Texas Air National Guard were inadvertently destroyed, according to the Pentagon.

In a letter responding to a freedom of information request by

The Associated Press, the Defense Department said that microfilm containing the pertinent National Guard payroll records was damaged and could not be salvaged. The damaged material included payroll records for the first quarter of 1969 and the third quarter of 1972.

The letter said that in 1996 and

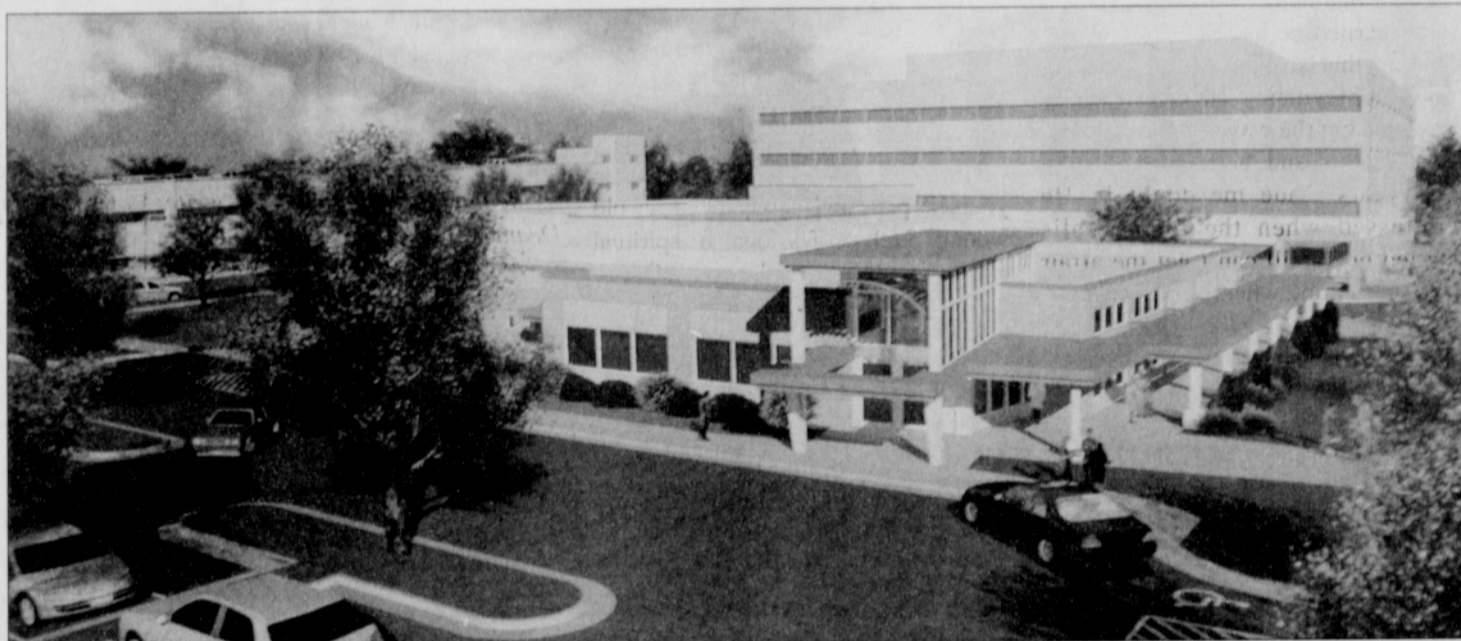
1997, the Pentagon "engaged with limited success in a project to salvage deteriorating microfilm." During the process, "the microfilm payroll records of numerous service members were damaged," the letter said.

This process resulted in "the inadvertent destruction of micro-

film containing certain National Guard payroll records," including Bush's, the letter said.

In February, the White House released some payroll and medical records from Bush's Vietnam-era service to counter suggestions that he shirked his duty with the National Guard.

Cancer Treatment Center Planned



An artist's rendering of Kaiser Permanente's new radiation treatment center and parking garage planned for construction along Interstate Avenue in north Portland. The addition will be next to other Kaiser facilities across Interstate from Overlook Park.

Kaiser's north Portland campus to expand

Kaiser Permanente plans to build a new radiation treatment center next door to its outpatient cancer treatment department on Interstate Avenue in north Portland.

Construction of the 17,000-square-foot, one-story treatment center will begin this fall on what is

now a parking lot.

It will feature three linear accelerators that deliver high doses of radiation to control and kill cancer cells. About 80 cancer patients a day will receive care at the facility, which is expected to open by the end of 2005.

The same group of physicians currently providing care for Kaiser Permanente patients at other locations has agreed to continue providing that care in Kaiser Permanente's new facility.

"We now have enough patients that it makes sense to bring this service onto our north Portland campus," says Dr. Tom Leimert, Kaiser Permanente's chief of oncology.

Leimert expects that Kaiser Permanente will hire about 14 people other than physicians to staff the new center, including radiation therapists, imaging assistants, nurses, and two medical physicists.

"We're also designing with future expansion in mind," says Dr. Leimert. "Waiting areas, for example,

are being built large enough to accommodate the larger number of patients we expect to have as the population ages."

Work will start this summer on a two-story parking garage serving the treatment center and visitors to six other buildings on Kaiser Permanente's Interstate campus. The garage will have spaces for 298 cars.

Total combined cost of both building, including landscaping, is an estimated \$27 million.

Crisis in Sudan

Mercy Corps responds to humanitarian need

Portland-based Mercy Corps has sent staff to provide food, water and life-saving assistance in the Darfur region of Sudan, where more than a million people are affected by conflict.

Over the past year, ethnic and political violence has destroyed the livelihoods of many people in Darfur. Thousands of Sudanese

have been forced to flee across the border into the neighboring nation of Chad, and leaving over one million people directly affected by fighting, homeless and vulnerable to hunger, weather and continued violence.

The United Nations calls the situation in Darfur "the world's worst humanitarian crisis," and

estimates that more than 130,000 Sudanese have already fled to Chad as refugees; 49 percent of displaced Sudanese lack food; 88 percent lack shelter; 67 percent lack water; and 93 percent lack adequate sanitation.

World leaders, including United States Secretary of State Colin Powell, have visited Sudan to call

for an end to hostilities and cooperation from the government of Sudan in getting urgent aid to people in Darfur.

Clashes between ethnic groups over land and resources have plagued Sudan for decades. The current conflict is characterized by prolonged clashes between several warring groups.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, PUBLISHER: Charles H. Washington

EDITOR: Michael Leighton

REPORTER: Jaymee R. Cui

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: Mark Washington

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Paul Neufeldt

OFFICE MANAGER: Kathy Linder

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