

## DMX • 1970-2021

## ‘Nothing less than a giant’

Associated Press

NEW YORK — DMX, the iconic hip-hop artist behind the songs “Ruff Ryders’ Anthem” and “Party Up (Up in Here)” whose distinctively gruff voice and thoughtful messages in his rhymes made him one of rap’s biggest stars, has died, according to a family statement Friday. He was 50.

The Grammy-nominated performer died after suffering “catastrophic cardiac arrest,” according to a statement from the hospital in White Plains, New York, where he died. He was rushed there from his home April 2.

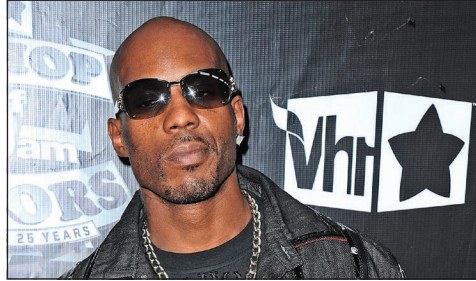
His family’s statement said DMX, whose birth name was Earl Simmons, died with relatives by his side after several days on life support.

“Earl was a warrior who fought till the very end. He loved his family with all of his heart, and we cherish the times we spent with him,” the family said, adding that his music “inspired countless fans across the world.”

Memorial plans were not yet set.

DMX — who rapped with a trademark raspy delivery that was often paired with growls, barks and “What!” as an ad-lib — built a multiplatinum career in the late 1990s and early 2000s, but he also struggled with drug addiction and legal problems that repeatedly put him behind bars.

“His message of triumph over struggle, his



Peter Kramer/AP file

**DMX arrives at the 2009 VH1 Hip Hop Honors at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York.**

search for the light out of darkness, his pursuit of truth and grace brought us closer to our own humanity,” his record label, Def Jam Recordings, said in a statement describing him as “nothing less than a giant.”

Fellow hip hop artists remembered him likewise, with Eve praising him as “one of the most special people I have ever met” and Nas calling him “Gods poet” in an Instagram post.

DMX made a splash in 1998 with his first studio album, “It’s Dark and Hell is Hot,” which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 albums chart. The multiplatinum-selling album was anchored by several hits including “Ruff Ryders’ Anthem,” “Get At Me Dog,” “Stop Being Greedy” and “How It’s Goin’ Down.”

## PRINCE PHILIP • 1921-2021

## Prince was defined by role of husband to the British queen

Associated Press

LONDON — Prince Philip, the irascible and tough-minded husband of Queen Elizabeth II who spent more than seven decades supporting his wife in a role that both defined and constricted his life, has died, Buckingham Palace said Friday. He was 99.

His life spanned nearly a century of European history, starting with his birth as a member of the Greek royal family and ending as Britain’s longest serving consort during a turbulent reign in which the thousand-year-old monarchy was forced to reinvent itself for the 21st century.

He was known for his occasionally deeply offensive remarks — and for gamely fulfilling more than 20,000 royal engagements to boost British interests at home and abroad. He headed hundreds of char-



Lefteris Pitarakis/AP

**Britain’s Prince Philip shares a joke with a war veteran following a ceremony for the Opening of the Field of Remembrance on the grounds of the Westminster Abbey in 2006 in central London.**

ities, founded programs that helped British schoolchildren participate in challenging outdoor adventures, and played a prominent part in raising his four children, including his el-

dest son, Prince Charles, the heir to the throne.

Philip spent a month in the hospital earlier this year before being released on March 16.

“It is with deep sorrow that Her Majesty The Queen has announced the death of her beloved husband, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh,” the palace said. “His Royal Highness passed away peacefully this morning at Windsor Castle.”

Philip saw his sole role as providing support for his wife, who began her reign as Britain re-treated from empire and steered the monarchy through decades of declining social deference and U.K. power into a modern world where people demand intimacy from their icons.

The queen, a very private person not given to extravagant displays of affection, once called him “her rock” in public.

## Smith

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Chief Operating Officer Curtis LeGeyt will become president of the NAB on Jan. 1. He joined the group in 2011 and previously was head of government relations.

LeGeyt had previously worked for top Democrats, including U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and the 2008 campaign of President Barack Obama.

Smith, originally from Pendleton, had taken the job as NAB’s top officer in 2009, the year after he lost his re-election bid to Democrat Jeff Merkley.

Smith had signed a contract extension in 2017 to keep him the top job through 2023.

On Aug. 4, Smith was admitted to a Washington D.C.-area hospital with what at first

was reported as a mild stroke. Smith issued a statement on Aug. 6 that rapid medical intervention had helped him avoid a stroke.

Smith decided earlier this year it was time for a change in the association’s leadership. LeGeyt was chosen as his successor. Smith will remain employed as an NAB lobbyist through 2024.

Former U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, had been considered a strong candidate to replace Smith in 2023. Walden’s family has a background in radio broadcasting, and he frequently worked with Smith on legislation over his two decades in Congress.

Walden was a frequent speaker at NAB events and received major donations over the years from the group.



File photo/Oregon Capital Insider

**Former Oregon U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith decided earlier this year it was time for a change in the leadership of the National Association of Broadcasters.**

When Walden announced in 2019 that he would not seek reelection, Smith praised Walden’s tenure in office.

“He is one of the finest public servants I’ve ever known,”

Smith said. “Greg’s career has been defined by success — as a committed local broadcaster, as a bipartisan political bridge builder, and as a brilliant legislator.”

Some industry publications cast LeGeyt’s appointment as Smith’s successor to be well-timed because of the the 2020 election results.

“LeGeyt’s Democratic connections certainly can’t hurt with a Democrat in the White House and current slim majorities on the Hill,” Radio World wrote Wednesday.

Walden and Smith could not be reached for comment Friday.

Smith was a state senator when he ran in a special election in January 1996 to replace U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Oregon, who had resigned over sexual harassment allegations.

Smith lost the special election by 18,200 votes to then-U.S. Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Portland.

U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Oregon, announced he would not seek reelection in 1996. Smith launched his second bid for the U.S. Senate in the same year, winning the November election in a three-way race.

Smith was reelected in 2002, defeating the Democrat, Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, by 18 percentage points.

Oregon House Speaker Jeff Merkley defeated Smith in 2008.

No Oregon Republican has served in the U.S. Senate since Smith’s departure. Merkley was reelected in 2014 and 2020. Wyden still serves in the U.S. Senate and has announced his plan to run for another term in 2022.

■ gwamer@eomediagroup.com

## Redistricting

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After Sept. 27, if legislators do not come up with a plan, the Constitution gives the task to the secretary of state.

The U.S. Census Bureau says it will be late summer before it will release census-block data, which Oregon and other states rely on to redraw their political maps after each 10-year census. Nothing in state law bars Oregon from using other sources of data.

Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Tina Kotek, joined by Republican minority leaders, asked the court for an extension beyond July 1. Fagan said the court lacked the authority to order an extension, and that any delay would interfere with the timetables for the 2022 primary election. The filing deadline for the May 17, 2022, election is March 8.

The justices decided the matter based entirely on written arguments and did not conduct a hearing.

The court’s order takes effect April 19, unless Fagan requests a reconsideration from the court — a request that the court rarely takes up.

The court, in the opinion written by Chief Justice Martha Walters, said the deadlines specified in the Oregon Constitution are less important than the process laid out in amendments that voters approved in 1952 and updated in 1986.

Walters wrote: “We have been presented with no reason why the voters who adopted the 1952 amendments would have been concerned with the exact date by which the Legislative Assembly or secretary (of state) are required to enact or make a plan, except as part of a larger framework calculated to result in the adoption of a timely final plan.

“Nor is there any indication that the voters would have intended to require the Legislative Assembly to adhere to the July 1 deadline for legislative action in the unforeseen event that federal census data — the

impetus for drawing new district lines in the first place — was not available by that date.

“Instead, the voters’ paramount interests seem to have been to direct the Legislative Assembly to enact a reapportionment plan based on census data in advance of the next general election cycle and to provide an alternative means by which a plan would still be made if the Legislative Assembly fails to act.”

## Democrats react

Courtney, a Democrat from Salem, and Kotek, a Democrat from Portland, issued this statement after the court announced its decision:

“The Supreme Court has done its job. Now it’s time for the Legislature to do its constitutional duty: to redraw the district boundaries for the state of Oregon in a way that’s fair and accurate. We have full faith in the legislative redistricting committees to lead this work.”

The court said that lawmakers can adopt a plan in a special session, rather than the 2021 regular session, which is scheduled to end June 28. If lawmakers do not meet the new deadline of Sept. 27, the court said that Fagan will have until Oct. 18 to come up with her own plan.

Fagan said in a statement afterward:

“Our agency’s core objectives were to prevent moving the 2022 election dates and to preserve robust public input by starting the process with available population data. We appreciate that the Oregon Supreme Court thoughtfully adopted both of our objectives. Representation matters and that is what redistricting is all about. That is why we will continue to engage Oregonians in the Legislature’s public hearings from all corners of the state.... Every Oregonian has a stake in this process, which is why we must continue to work together to ensure all Oregonians have the fair, equitable representation they deserve.”

## Republicans comment

Senate Republican Leader Fred Girod of Lyons said he

was satisfied that the court left the initial stage of redistricting to the Legislature.

“Oregonians expect their district to be fairly drawn,” he said in a statement. “The most important principles for Republicans are ‘One-Person-One-Vote’ and upholding the Voting Rights Act. Gerrymandering is unacceptable and by keeping this process in the Legislature, we have a chance to come to a bipartisan agreement to draw fair lines.”

House Republican Leader Christine Drazen of Canby restated her support for an independent commission to redraw both legislative and congressional district lines. A proposed initiative failed to qualify for the 2020 general election ballot, although its advocates went to federal court in an attempt to reduce the signature requirements because of the coronavirus pandemic. A measure to create such a commission is pending, but even if lawmakers referred it to voters, it would not come to a statewide election until 2022.

“Oregon needs to commit to a nonpartisan and transparent redistricting process,” Drazen said. “Shockingly, we are the only state on the West Coast that does not currently have an independent redistricting commission. In fact, we’re behind 26 other states in the country that have or are moving to an independent system this year. Oregonians deserve better, and they overwhelmingly support independent redistricting.”

## Congress excluded

The court’s decision does not apply directly to congressional redistricting. Although the court is the final arbiter of such a plan if lawmakers do not come up with one — the court appoints a special panel under a law passed in 2013 — the rules governing congressional redistricting are in state law and not the Oregon Constitution.

Oregon expects to gain a sixth U.S. House seat as a result of the 2020 Census.

■ pwong@pamplinmedia.com

## GI Bill

Continued from A1

Hawkins was suddenly able to use his GI Bill benefits — which he earned from his U.S. Marine Corps service from 1990 to 1996 — for the first time at the business center.

“It felt great,” he said. “Who doesn’t love saving money?”

On Wednesday, COCC announced that it was accepting GI Bill benefits for its noncredit courses at the Small Business Development Center.

Although veterans could use these benefits — which either lower or completely eliminate tuition costs for college classes — for credit or degree-seeking courses, they previously couldn’t use them at the noncredit-only business center, said Ken Betschart, the center’s director.

But after becoming accredited by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

to do so in March, the Small Business Development Center is now the only noncredit business center in Oregon to accept GI Bill benefits, Betschart said. This could give local veterans a big boost in starting their own businesses, he said.

“Our courses don’t tend to be expensive to begin with, but it can be a barrier for some folks,” Betschart said. “This allows them to use their veteran benefits to cover the cost of tuition.”

Although other similar small-business centers in Oregon could also accept GI Bill benefits, COCC is the first one to do so. This could be because the accreditation process itself is obscure, Betschart said.

“When I heard this was available to us, I’ve talked to other (business centers) across the state, and they weren’t aware it even existed,” he said. “There’s not a lot of knowledge about us-

ing GI benefits for noncredit courses.”

The GI Bill benefits for these business classes will depend on the individual veteran, said Sue Pierce, the veterans certifying official for COCC.

Veterans who served in active duty for at least 36 months would be eligible for a 100% tuition deduction, she said.

Those who served for less than that, but were still honorably discharged, can likely still receive a discount of some type, Pierce said.

Pierce said GI Bill benefits for COCC noncredit business courses will be useful to local veterans.

“This is a new avenue for veterans to use their benefits in a less traditional institute of higher learning, and pursue a course that may be more in line with their interests,” she said.

■ Reporter: 541-617-7854, jhogan@bendbulletin.com



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