

Our Golden Girl: In Memoriam of Betty White

BY ALLIE GOSEN

ON DECEMBER 31, 2021 a Hollywood icon and joyous personality left our world. Betty Marion White Ludden, known more famously as Betty White, was an actress and comedian with her career spanning a good 80 years. White worked on dozens of projects from television series to movies. In fact, she was the first woman to produce a sitcom known as “Life With Elizabeth.”

She was often referred to as the “First Lady of Television,” and she was named “Honorary Mayor of Hollywood.”

Born January 17, 1922, White was just a few days shy of her 100th birthday when she passed. Her death broke the hearts of millions. Starting her story in Illinois, she was an only child. Eventually, she and her family moved to L.A. during the Great Depression. Her family did what they could to get by, but there wasn't anyone who wasn't struggling.

As a little girl, White adored wildlife, and she wanted to be a forest ranger. However, that was something a woman could never be. After the patriarchy shut her dream down, she turned to writing instead. Betty White wrote and starred in her graduation play at Horace Mann School, and from there she fell in love with performing—the rest is history.

White and some friends sang songs on some small television shows, and she eventually got her first modeling gig. Soon after, World War II began, and America joined the fight. At this time, Betty White volunteered her services with the American Women's Voluntary Services. Here, she drove a PX truck with military supplies to the Hollywood Hills.

After the war, Betty went back to performing. Or at least she tried. She auditioned for many studios, but they told her she was not photogenic enough. So, what does one do when they apparently have a face for radio? Well, you guessed it, Betty started working for the radio. She would read commercials and play bits; she also made crowd noises. She made a grand \$5.00 per show. After many years of this, she was offered her own show: “The Betty White Show.” “The Betty White Show” was a little variety show brought to the screen, and she had her fun with it. She met Lucille Ball and various other stars from that time. She also cast African-American tap dancer Arthur Duncan as a regular cast member. When audiences threw a fit, Betty White said “I'm sorry. Live with it.”

In 1963, she married her life partner Allen Ludden. The two never had children, as Betty always said she wanted a career, not children. However, she did play stepmom to Ludden's three children. He died of stomach cancer in 1981. Betty White never remarried.

In 1985, White landed one of her signature roles: Rose Nylund. Here she portrayed a ditsy widow from St. Olaf, Minnesota with four other older women in Miami. The show ran from 1985 until 1992. Since then, Betty White has made cameo appearances in countless films and TV shows.

Betty White was like America's Grandmother, and there were plenty of memes and posts about how people would vote for her for president, how she can never die, and how she was a light in a dark world. She will be missed by all.

Bob Saget Found Dead in Orlando, Florida

BY FAITH FITZHUGH

BOB SAGET PASSED away this year on January 9TH, 2022, at the Ritz Carlton in Orlando, Grande Lakes, Florida. ABC News states: “He was found dead in his Hotel room by emergency responders and there has been no cause of death released yet. The only thing surrounding Saget's death was at this time there were no signs of drug use or foul play in his death.” Saget was 65 years old at the time of his death. On January 14th, his funeral was held in Los Angeles where his family and the whole “Full House” cast were present to pay their respects and honor Saget's life. Saget has three daughters, Aubrie, Lara Melanie, and Jennifer Belle.

Bob Saget was a stand-up comedian and an actor. He was best known for his role as the father Danny Tanner on the sitcom “Full House” and “Fuller House.” He played a funny, caring, stern, and an incredible single dad who took care of his daughters. The Conversation states “Danny exemplified what it meant to ‘be there’ as a parent” and “I view Danny as an avatar of the changing expectations of fatherhood that began in the late 1970s.” These two quotes

convey the change and example Bob Saget was able to contribute with his role as Tanner. America learned from him that life is not always going to be easy and that all we can do is do what's best for our family, or at the very least the people who depend on us.

Bob Saget made his mark through the people he interacted with—his family, coworkers, friends, and audiences. He made his mark by enriching people's lives with joy, laughter, and happiness. He set an example for all fathers and men. Saget produced a change in the lives of so many people through his comedy and acting careers. Saget positively impacted the lives of his family, coworkers, and audiences. He will be greatly missed not just for the contributions he gave to the world, but how he changed the lives of each individual who knew him personally, as a comedian, or as the beloved single, clean freak dad Danny Tanner. Fans of “Full House” will always remember “clean is good, dirt is bad” and to always keep the door open for those who need it so we can honor his memory as an actor, father, friend, comedian, and more.

The National Guard and Nurses

BY THOMAS PRESNALL

HOSPITALS AND HOSPITAL STAFF hospital staff are overwhelmed. There's no other way to say it. With the emergence of the Omicron variant, there is not a lot of hope for nurses and doctors around the country. At UMass Memorial Medical Center in Massachusetts, the hospital is already over capacity, standing at a startling 115%, and what's worse is that the number is not expected to go down. There is, however, a sliver of hope that came to hospitals all across the U.S., and it came in the form of the National Guard.

During the holiday time, many people try to be with their families. It's a time when families can try to block out the chaos of the world and have a nice, joyful holiday. Thousands of Guard members were inside of hospitals, acting as “drivers...transport people...food service, security, and patient observance” (CNN). These are not trained nurses and doctors, but everyday people who work everyday jobs. These are teachers, businessmen, and other members of the community that are being sent into overpacked hospitals. What does help is that these are also soldiers with the discipline and training to back it up.

23-year-old guardsman, Spc. Stephen Prochniak helped save the life of a patient who had fallen to the floor and wasn't breathing, moving, and had no pulse. All Prochniak was asked was if he knew CPR, and when he answered yes, he was told to get in there and help. For the next few minutes, he and another person performed CPR until a pulse was detected. Prochniak told CNN, “I was just a very small part of the team of the real heroes that are doing this kinda thing every day.”

John Donnelly, from this author's home state of Oregon, stepped away from his job as a music teacher for months to support and help an inner-city hospital. When speaking to him over the Christmas break, he shared that he could recall many times when his job was simply to sit, watch patients, and call a nurse if anything changed. On a few of those occasions, a nurse never made it in time. He called his experience “eye-opening,” but said that even that alone is an understatement.

Hospitals are in dire need of relief, and while members of the National Guard may not be trained doctors and nurses, they are more than welcome to do their small part in the fight against COVID.



Photo Credit: Piron Guillaume