

# King of Pop Michael Jackson is Dead

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LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Michael Jackson, the moonwalking former child star who became known the world over as the "King of Pop" before his life and career deteriorated in a freakish series of scandals, died Thursday, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. He was 50.

The person said Jackson died in a Los Angeles hospital. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity.

The circumstances of his death were not immediately clear. Jackson was not breathing when Los Angeles Fire Department paramedics responded to a call at his Los Angeles home about 12:30 p.m., Capt. Steve Ruda told the Los Angeles Times. The paramedics performed CPR and took him to UCLA Medical Center, Ruda told the newspaper.

Jackson's death brought a tragic end to a long, bizarre, sometimes farcical decline from his peak in the 1980s, when he was popular music's premier all-around performer, a uniter of black and white music who shattered the race barrier on MTV, dominated the charts and dazzled even more on stage.

He was perhaps the most exciting performer of his generation, known for his feverish, crotch-grabbing dance moves, his high-pitched voice punctuated with squeals and titters. His single sequined glove and tight, military-style jacket were trademarks second only to his ever-changing, surgically altered appearance. Over the years, his skin became lighter and his nose narrower.

The Florida Civil Rights Association mourns the death of the King of Pop, Michael Jackson. "A legend in the music industry whose musical genius bridged the gap between age, race and nationalities throughout the far reaches of the world," said FCRA President [J. Willie David, III](#).

"His contribution and memory will be everlasting. It is undeniable that Michael Jackson is the most famous man in the world," said [J. Willie David, III](#).

Upon receiving the news of Jackson's death, FCRA State Secretary Marsha Watson traveled down memory lane. Watson shared that she joined the Jackson Five Fan Club in the early 1970's, showing her membership letter and autographed photos of the young Michael Jackson and of the Jackson Five to include a large poster with the Five Brothers and their youngest brother Randy.

"The group was known as the Jackson Five, plus one," stated Watson. "This is so surreal, I did not expect to have such an emotional response to the news, yesterday these posters were just items from my childhood, today it is memorabilia. I would never have imagined Michael Jackson dying, we mourn the loss of what may have been, but will celebrate the legacy," Watson said.

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