

DEATH OF A
LEGEND...

THANKS, BOB

BOB HOPE

May 29, 1903 - July 27, 2003

HE was knighted by the queen, a friend of presidents and common soldiers alike and a source of laughter for millions all over the world. But Bob Hope had one secret he never shared with his adoring fans – he wanted to live to 100. And he got his wish.

Hope died July 27 – just two months after hitting the century mark.

"Bob once told me he had accomplished everything in his life and then some," a pal tells GLOBE. "I asked him, 'What's left?' He looked at me very seriously and said, 'I just want to live to be 100 and that's it.'"

America's most beloved comedian starred in 50 films, traveled the world entertaining American troops and his TV shows became instant classics. Out of the limelight, he raised four adopted kids, Linda, Anthony, Kelly and Nora, with his beloved wife of 64 years, Dolores, 94.

"A good part of the reason he lived so long is that he led such a healthy life," longtime pal and fellow jokester Phyllis Diller tells GLOBE. "He didn't drink or smoke and he loved being a comedian."

"But the last few years, Bob's sight and hearing got so bad. He was mostly confined to bed and only got up to eat. When you're lying down so much, your lungs fill with fluid."

Hope finally succumbed to pneumonia. But friends and fans will always remember him with reverence – and a smile.

"Bob did it all – actor, entertainer, sportsman – and was loved by everyone," his old pal Mickey Rooney tells GLOBE. "He's going to be very, very missed. The entire world has lost a great friend."

Legendary hooper Ann Miller adds, "When I last saw him about three years ago, he was already very frail and had to be helped around. But he still threw his arms around me and gave me a huge hug and hello."

And he repeatedly vowed never to give in to old age.

"I'm not retiring until they carry me away," said Hope, an avid golfer. "And I'll still do a few routines on the way to the big divot."

– ROBIN MIZRAHI
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1941
Hope played a soldier in *Caught in the Draft*



1942
The British-born star poses for an NBC promotional photo



1952
Bob gets all tangled up with actress Jane Russell in *Son of Paleface*



1961
Bachelor in Paradise Bob in heaven with Lana Turner



1966
Here Bob yuks it up with a very special leading "lady" – Milton Berle in the flick *The Oscar*



1977
Talking with President Jimmy Carter at the Inaugural Ball

DID YOU KNOW?

BOB HOPE became America's most famous funnyman, but he was born in England and came to the United States as a tot.

Here are some other surprising facts about the comic legend:

● The fifth of seven sons, he was named Leslie Townes Hope by his

Welsh mom, an aspiring singer, and English stone
● Growing up in Cleveland worked as a soda jerk, deli and pool hustler. He boxed amateur under the name
● His big showbiz break came when he played Huckebe