

## Farewell to a Legend

Only in The ENQUIRER

"I'm ready to go now. You don't keep Rita Hayworth waiting."

Those were the touching last words of acting legend Glenn Ford, who died at the age of 90 at his Beverly Hills home on Aug. 30. His son Peter - by first wife Eleanor Powell - daughter-in-law Linda and granddaughter Eleanor were at his side.

"He held a torch for Rita all his life," said a longtime friend.

"And on his deathbed he was actually anxious to leave this world to join Rita.

"He never got over her.

"She was the love of his life."

The acclaimed actor was in frail health for the last several years, having suffered a series of mini-strokes and minor injuries, his longtime publicist Tommy Garrett told The ENQUIRER.

"Peter and Linda moved into Glenn's home to take care of him, and they waited on him hand and foot, treating him like the superstar he was in his prime," Garrett said.

Glenn complained of discomfort on the morning of Aug. 30, and son Peter immediately called paramedics. Despite their efforts, they were unable to save the ailing actor.

"I closed his eyes with my fingers, kissed his cheek and said goodbye," Peter said.

In his final moments, Peter confirmed that his father spoke of "his great love" for Rita Hayworth, who died in 1987. Though they were never married, the two starred together in five films, including "Gilda" in 1946.

"Glenn fell madly in love with Rita in the mid-'40s, and he stayed in love with her until the day he died," revealed Garrett.

"He's probably dancing in the stars right now with Rita just as they did in life."

Glenn Ford's  
Last Words:

YOU DON'T  
KEEP RITA  
HAYWORTH  
WAITING'



"BLACKBOARD JUNGLE"



Glenn Ford's long career included such classic films as (from top) "Blackboard Jungle," "Pocketful of Miracles," and "Jubal." At left, Glenn embraces Rita Hayworth in "Gilda"