



GLORIOUS CAREER: (From left) Tough guy James Coburn starred as a gunslinger in 1960's *The Magnificent Seven*, played a secret agent in the 1966 *Our Man Flint*, then was an Irish explosives expert in 1971's *Fistful of Dynamite*. He won the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for *Affliction* in 1998

JAMES COBURN DIED IN LOVING WIFE'S ARMS

MOVIE hell-raiser James Coburn received a heavenly send-off from a pair of angels - he died as his wife Paula held him while being serenaded by the music of late jazz great Billie Holiday.

The lanky actor was felled by a heart attack at age 74 in his Beverly Hills mansion Nov. 18. He had two children, Lisa, 45, and Michael, 41.

"My dad was a very fulfilled, happy and loved man and he passed away in peace," Lisa tells GLOBE in an exclusive interview.

"He was home relaxing with my stepmother Paula and they were listening to Billie Holiday singing *Fine and Mellow*."

"He had just popped open a ginger beer when his heart suddenly gave out and he died almost instantly - in Paula's loving arms."

Although Coburn battled agonizing arthritis that left his left hand gnarled, he continued acting to the end, appearing recently in *The Man From the Elysian Fields* and the not-yet-released *American Gun*. He won his only Oscar in 1998

for the movie *Affliction*, boasting that after more than 150 screen appearances over 40 years, "I finally got one right."

Coburn was married for 21 years to first wife Beverly Kelley, who he divorced in 1980. He tied the knot with newsgal Paula Murad, 47, in 1993 and she helped to save his life, says Lisa.

"Paula gave him joy and fun during a low period. He was sick and unable to work. Thanks to her love and strength,



James with his devoted wife Paula



James Coburn in a recent snapshot with his daughter Lisa

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

he pulled his life back together."

Lisa, a Los Angeles Web designer, takes joy in the fact that her dad and son Michael, 14, grew close. "They would watch football games and he'd tell my son stories," she says.

"My dad was married to a woman he loved dearly and he had loving relationships with his children and two grandchildren. He truly had everything a man could want." - ROBIN MIZRAHI

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