

American Classic: **Tony Bennett turns 85**

■ 1926: Born August 3, Astoria, Queens, New York City

■ 1945: Serves in U.S. Army in Europe during final stages of World War II

■ 1950: Signs to Columbia Records, soon becomes major international star

1962: Records signature song. I Left My Heart in San Francisco

1965: Fortunes go into decline as rock and pop become pre-eminent

■ 1979: After near fatal drug overdose, begins to resurrect career under management of son Danny

1980s-90s: Remarkable comeback introduces MTV generation to great American songbook

2006: Duets: An American Classic becomes Bennett's best-performing album to date

2011: Duets II, with artists including the late Amy Winehouse, released