Country music legend Dolly Parton dies

Dolly Parton, the irrepressible country superstar from the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, has died aged 80 after an extraordinary 60-year career spanning music, acting, business and philanthropy

- **Jan 19, 1946:** ***Dolly Rebecca Parton*** born in Pittman Center, Tennessee, fourth of 12 children
- **1950s:** Writes first song, ***"Little Tiny Tasseltop",*** aged six, with formative years surrounded by musical family
- **1959:** Performs with uncle Bill Owens at Nashville's ***Grand Ole Opry*** and receives three encores
- **1964:** Moves to Nashville to launch singing career
- **1966:** Marries ***Carl Dean.*** Couple remain together until his death in 2025
- **1967:** Stars with ***Porter Wagoner*** on TV – pair became one of country music's most popular duos, over seven-year partnership *(below)*



- **1969:** Writes ***"Coat of Many Colors"***, autobiographical tale of growing up poor, but rich with love
- **1971:** ***"Joshua"*** becomes first No.1
- **1970s:** Pens hits ***"I Will Always Love You"*** and ***"Jolene"*** before winning first Grammy Award for ***"Here You Come Again"*** in 1979
- **1980:** Movie debut in ***9 to 5*** alongside ***Jane Fonda.*** Theme song propels her to stardom and later wins two Grammys



- **1980s:** Further acting roles include ***Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, Rhinestone*** and ***Steel Magnolias***
- **1986:** Opens Dollywood park
- **1992:** ***Whitney Houston's*** cover of "I Will Always Love You" becomes global phenomenon
- **1995:** Launches ***Imagination Library*** literacy drive, which now distributes millions of books annually
- **2007:** Receives ***Johnny Mercer Award,*** the Songwriters Hall of Fame's highest honour
- **2020:** Donates $1m to help fund Moderna Covid-19 vaccine
- **2022:** Inducted into ***Rock & Roll Hall of Fame***
- **2025:** Husband Carl Dean dies
- **Aug 25, 2026: Dies at age of 80**

Sources: BBC, Reuters

Pictures: Getty Images

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