

Doc Watson Dead at 89

Written by Steve Frank
Tuesday, 29 May 2012 20:22

It rained tonight in Boone. It seemed appropriate. News came up the mountain at around 8 that Doc Watson had passed away at 7:21pm at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. He was 89. A year ago, just ahead of the MusicFest at Cove Creek, Doc Watson sang a song for his wife, "Twelfth of Never" for us. There is certainly a happy reunion somewhere, while the rest of us grieve.

Hold me close, never let me go.

Hold me close, melt my heart like April snow.

I'll love you till the bluebells forget to bloom;

I'll love you till the clover has lost its perfume.

I'll love you till the poets run out of rhyme,

Until the twelfth of never and that's a long, long time.

Family members of Doc Watson were summoned back to Winston-Salem this morning, that as the condition of the 89-year old guitarist and singer has reportedly worsened. Doc fell Monday of last week and was taken to Watauga Medical Center, and later in the week was airlifted to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and has had several medical procedures—and some bad days, according to family. Doc was able to attend the 25th Merlefest, named for his son Merle at Wilkes Community College in April, and had hoped to play in Cove Creek and the annual music fest there, but hopes are prayers now are for his family, as flowers and other items have been placed at his bronze statue, a bench on King Street in Boone.

Governor Bev Perdue issued a statement on Watson's passing; "Over his long and brilliant career, Doc Watson traveled the world playing the music he loved, but his heart never strayed far from his home in Deep Gap, North Carolina. His peerless abilities garnered him countless awards, including North Carolina's highest civilian honor, the North Carolina Award, in 1986, and the North Carolina Heritage Award in 1994. Our state was fortunate to have such a worldwide ambassador of North Carolina's culture and heritage. He will be missed."

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