

Richard Denning

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Richard Denning



Denning as [Michael Shayne](#) with Patricia Donahue as Lucy Hamilton, 1960.

	Louis Albert Heindrich Denninger, Jr.
Born	March 27, 1914 Poughkeepsie, New York , U.S.
Died	October 11, 1998 (aged 84) Escondido, California , U.S.
Occupation	Actor
Years active	1937–1980
Spouse(s)	Patricia Leffingwell (1986–1998) (his death) Evelyn Ankers (1942–1985) (her death)

Richard Denning (March 27, 1914 – October 11, 1998), was an American actor who starred in such [movies](#) as *[Creature from the Black Lagoon](#)* (1954) and *[An Affair to Remember](#)* (1957), and on radio with [Lucille Ball](#) as her [husband](#) George Cooper in *[My Favorite Husband](#)* (1948–1951), the forerunner of [television](#)'s *[I Love Lucy](#)*, for which Denning was replaced by Ball's real-life husband, [Desi Arnaz](#).

Biography





With [Pat Crowley](#)

Denning was born as **Louis Albert Heindrich Denninger, Jr.**, in [Poughkeepsie, New York](#). He became an actor, best known for his recurring role as the fictitious [governor of Hawaii](#), Paul Jameson, in the [CBS crime drama, *Hawaii Five-O*](#) (1968–1980), starring [Jack Lord](#). He also starred as the title character in the detective series [Michael Shayne](#) (1960–1961) and shared title billing with [Barbara Britton](#) in the detective series [Mr. and Mrs. North](#) (1952–1954). He was later cast as Dr. Greg Graham in the 1959 series, *The Flying Doctor*.

He appeared three times on the [ABC religion anthology series *Crossroads*](#), as Dr. Ira Langston in "[chinese](#) Checkers" (1955) and as the Reverend George Bolton in "The Bowery Bishop" and as the Reverend Lloyd E. Williams in "The Pure White Orchid" (both 1956).^[1]

According to Denning, after military [service](#) during [World War II](#) disrupted his career, he still waited eighteen months thereafter before [Paramount Pictures](#) put him back to work. During that time period, Denning and his family lived in a mobile [home](#) that he alternately parked at [Malibu](#) and [Palm Springs](#). His period of unemployment ended when he was hired to star on the radio opposite Lucille Ball in *My Favorite Husband*.^[2]

Denning was already retired and living on the island of [Maui](#) with his [wife](#), when producer [Leonard Freeman](#) telephoned him with an [offer](#) to appear as the governor in *Hawaii Five-O*. Freeman guaranteed Denning five-hour days and a four-[day](#) work week in order to snag him.^[3]

Personal life

Denning was married to 1940s horror [movie](#) queen [Evelyn Ankers](#) (co-star of *The Wolf Man*), who retired from films at the age of thirty-two after they were married. After Ankers' death from [cancer](#) in 1985, Denning married Patricia Leffingwell.