

= Jeff Hanneman =

Jeffrey John " Jeff " Hanneman (January 31 , 1964 ? May 2 , 2013) was an American musician , best known as a founding member of the American thrash metal band Slayer . Hanneman contributed both lyrical and musical material to every Slayer album and wrote the songs " Raining Blood " , " War Ensemble " , " South of Heaven " , " Seasons in the Abyss " , and " Angel of Death " , all of which have been played at almost every live Slayer performance after their respective compositions . He had his own signature guitar , the ESP Jeff Hanneman Signature model .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early life = = =

Hanneman was born January 31 , 1964 , in Oakland , California , and grew up in Long Beach in a family containing several war veterans : his father fought in Normandy during World War II and his brothers in Vietnam , making warfare a common conversation topic at the dinner table . War films were popular on TV at the time , and Hanneman often joined his brothers in constructing and coloring tank and plane models . His interest in warfare and military history has been attributed to his upbringing .

In a 2009 interview with Decibel magazine , he stated his father is German , but fought for the Allied side in World War II . In the same interview , he also goes into detail of what district of Germany his father and grandparents hail from . His grandfather was fluent in German .

Hanneman was introduced to heavy metal music as a child through his older sister Mary , when she was listening to Black Sabbath at her house . Once he reached high school , he discovered hardcore punk , which had a significant influence on his style and attitude .

= = = Slayer = = =

In 1981 Hanneman , who was working as a telemarketer at the time , met Kerry King , when King was auditioning for a southern rock band called " Ledger " . King remembered : " As I was leaving , I saw Jeff just kinda standing around playing guitar , and he was playing stuff that I was into , like Def Leppard 's ' Wasted ' and AC / DC and Priest " . After the try @-@ out session , the two guitarists started talking and playing Iron Maiden and Judas Priest songs . Slayer was born when King asked " Why don 't we start our own band ? " , to which Hanneman replied " ... Fuck yeah ! " .

Hanneman stated that he was playing guitar " for like a month " by the time he met King and put an effort into improving his skills after watching him play . Hanneman , who was heavily influenced by hardcore punk music , got the other members into the genre , leading Slayer into a faster and more aggressive approach . The band 's drummer Dave Lombardo asserted that his hardcore influences pushed him to play faster , contributing to shape his drumming style .

In 1984 , Hanneman , Lombardo and Suicidal Tendencies guitarist Rocky George had a brief hardcore punk side project called " Pap Smear " ? the band had many tracks and was due to start recording when Hanneman was advised to avoid the side project by Slayer 's producer , Rick Rubin , who is quoted as saying " Ahhhh , don 't do it , man ? this is the kind of thing that breaks bands up ! " and Hanneman took Rubin 's advice . Only a demo was recorded , consisting of Hanneman on vocals and bass , Lombardo on drums and George on guitar . Later two of the songs were re @-@ recorded on Slayer 's 1996 album Undisputed Attitude .

= = = Illness and death = = =

In early 2011 , Hanneman contracted necrotizing fasciitis . Reports linked this illness with a spider bite he claimed to have received while in a friend 's hot tub .

In light of his illness and Slayer 's upcoming participation in the Australian Soundwave Festival tour

that was set to begin on February 26 , 2011 , the band made the decision to play the dates without Hanneman , and on February 16 , 2011 , brought on Gary Holt (guitarist of the band Exodus) to fill in for him . Pat O 'Brien joined as Slayer 's temporary second guitarist when Holt left the tour to play with Exodus . In 2012 , bandmate Tom Araya announced a recovery from the disease . However , later in February 2013 , Kerry King revealed continuing health problems that kept Hanneman from working .

Hanneman died of liver failure on May 2 , 2013 , in a Southern California hospital near his home . On May 9 , 2013 , the official cause of death was announced as alcohol @-@ related cirrhosis . Hanneman and his family had apparently been unaware of the extent of the condition until shortly before his death .

= = Personal life = =

In 1989 , Hanneman married Kathryn in Las Vegas . They had met in 1983 before the release of the debut album Show No Mercy , during a Slayer show in Buena Park , California . The couple had no children and lived in Los Angeles . Kathryn stayed at home when Slayer toured ; Hanneman claimed to prefer this , having said that when he came home , she was " all brand new again . " Kathryn only toured with the band twice in twenty years .

Hanneman was a reserved person when he was offstage . Unlike the other members , he was very selective in socializing and rarely gave interviews . As vocalist / bassist Araya said : " If he didn 't like you , he wouldn 't hang with you . " Hanneman was a reformed cocaine and pill abuser , much like Araya . They decided to quit when they realized " this can lead to only death or something , this is going too far . " Hanneman was a long @-@ time fan of the Oakland Raiders and the Los Angeles Kings .

= = German history = =

Hanneman 's interest in German war medals and Nazi Germany was illustrated by many of his lyrics . Those interests in the Wehrmacht and Waffen @-@ SS began with medals given to him by his father , including some taken from a dead German soldier . His most prized medal was his Knight 's Cross , which he had bought from a Slayer fan for \$ 1000 . While touring with Motörhead , Hanneman discovered Motörhead vocalist Lemmy 's interest in medals , and the two discussed medal designs , weapons and tactics used by the Wehrmacht .

Hanneman 's lyrics for the song " Angel of Death " led to accusations of Slayer being Nazi sympathizers . Hanneman defended himself with " nothing I put in the lyrics that says necessarily he (Josef Mengele) was a bad man , because to me ? well , isn 't that obvious ? I shouldn 't have to tell you that . " The band has stated numerous times that they are not Nazis and do not condone Nazism .

= = Influences and style = =

Hanneman 's major influences included hard rock and heavy metal bands like Led Zeppelin , Iron Maiden , Judas Priest , Black Sabbath , Aerosmith and hardcore punk acts such as Wasted Youth , Minor Threat , Dead Kennedys , Black Flag , T.S.O.L. , which led to Slayer 's 1996 album Undisputed Attitude . Hanneman 's and King 's dual guitar solos have been called " wildly chaotic , " and " twisted genius " . Early albums , such as Hell Awaits and Reign in Blood , featured a " wailing style " and " demented soloing often mimicking the screams of the song 's victims . " South of Heaven featured " more technical " guitar riffs , utilizing the aforementioned tremolo picking and down @-@ picked notes , improving musicianship while retaining a melodic sense . Both Hanneman and King were ranked # 10 in Guitar World 's " 100 Greatest Heavy Metal Guitarists of All Time . "

= = Legacy = =

Hanneman 's guitar work had a notable impact on the heavy metal scene . Musicians like Robb Flynn (Machine Head) , Dino Cazares (Fear Factory , Divine Heresy) , Mille Petrozza (Kreator) , Andreas Kisser (Sepultura) , Dan Lilker (Anthrax , Nuclear Assault) , Eric Hoffman (Deicide , Amon) , Trevor Peres (Obituary) , Mark Morton (Lamb of God) and Kelly Shaefer (Atheist) cited him as an influence on their playing and songwriting . Jeff Walker said that " Hanneman 's playing and riff writing and attitude has had a big impact on Carcass " . Shavo Odadjian declared that " without Jeff Hanneman , there would be no System of a Down " .

John Consterdine of Terrorizer magazine noted : " without Jeff Hanneman , Slayer certainly would not have created some of the most famous riffs in metal , which undoubtedly changed the entire genre " . According to Jeff Kitts of Guitar World , he " influenced a generation and changed the course of metal forever " . Alex Webster of Cannibal Corpse , who considers Hanneman his major influence as a composer , regarded him as " one of the greatest musicians and songwriters in metal " and Alexi Laiho of Children of Bodom described him as " one of the fathers of metal " .

Alex Skolnick of Testament asserted that he " wrote some of the best riffs of all @-@ time " and " he impacted music in such a way that an entire genre will never be the same " . According to Corey Taylor of Slipknot and Stone Sour , Hanneman is " one of the most underrated writers and underrated players that ever was " while Slash of Guns n ' Roses and Velvet Revolver defined him " the king of thrash / speed metal guitar " .

= = Lyrics and music = =

Hanneman wrote the music for most of the band 's fan favorites , songs such as " Angel of Death " , " Raining Blood " , " Die by the Sword " , " South of Heaven " , " War Ensemble " , " Postmortem " , " Dead Skin Mask " and " Seasons in the Abyss " , which have all become staples for live performance at Slayer shows . Hanneman 's favorite album was Reign in Blood , and he enjoyed performing the songs " Raining Blood " and " Angel of Death . " He contributed lyrics and music to every Slayer album , having formed a music and lyric writing partnership with Araya , which sometimes overshadowed King 's creative input .

When writing new material , the band writes the music before the lyrics . Hanneman often composed riffs at his house , using a 24 @-@ track and a drum machine and then by gathering opinions from the other band members ; King and Lombardo made suggestions of alterations . The band will play the riff to get the basic song structure , and then figure out where the lyrics and solos go . Hanneman stated that writing lyrics and music is a " free for all " ; " It 's all just whoever comes up with what . Sometimes I 'll be more on a roll and I 'll have more stuff , same with Kerry ? it 's whoever 's hot , really . Anybody can write anything ; if it 's good we use it , if not we don 't . "

= = Equipment = =

In Slayer 's early days , Hanneman used a black Gibson Les Paul modified with a Kahler Pro tremolo and a Joe Barden Two / Tone Humbucker bridge pickup during the Show No Mercy and Hell Awaits era . In mid 1985 he began playing B.C. Rich , notably a Rich Bich model he bought off his band colleague Kerry King , he subsequently applied various graphics to . His first Bich had a 3x3 headstock , chrome hardware (including the Kahler Pro bridge) and the pickups were DiMarzio Super Distortions . He and King can both also be seen with a second set of BC Rich 's around 1986 @-@ 1987 , which had 6 @-@ in @-@ line headstocks , black hardware and DiMarzio pickups . More rarely he also used a BC Rich Ironbird model . From 1987 he was seen using a custom made BC Rich Gunslinger with similar specs as his ' 86- ' 87 era Bich , he shortly after had the pickups replaced with two active EMG @-@ 81 humbuckers . In 1988 he began playing the famous Jackson Soloist that he would use constantly as his main guitar for songs played in E @-@ flat tuning until 2001 . It originally shipped to him with passive Jackson pickups (probably a J @-@ 50 and J @-@ 80) and a JE @-@ 1200 mid @-@ boost circuit , but were soon changed for EMG @-@ 81 pickups as well . Around 1990 @-@ 1991 Hanneman began using ESP guitars , he mostly used as backup for this Jackson Soloist and other tunings . He had his own signature model made , based on the

specs of his original Jackson Soloist . When touring , Hanneman carried six guitars due to the different tunings he utilized . Most albums such as Haunting the Chapel ? Divine Intervention and World Painted Blood have E @-@ flat tuning . However , albums such as Diabolus in Musica ? Christ Illusion feature alternate tunings such as Drop B and utilizing seven string guitars . The first album , Show No Mercy , was recorded in standard tuning , while live performances of those songs were played in E @-@ flat since about 1984 .

= = = Guitars = = =

ESP Jeff Hanneman Signature model
Jackson Custom Shop Soloist
EMG 81 / 85 Pickups with EMG SPC Mid @-@ Boost circuit
Kahler Pro bridges
Dunlop .009-.042 Strings
D 'Addario .009-.042 Strings (earlier)

= = = Effects = = =

Shure Wireless System
Eventide H3000S Harmonizer
Yamaha SPX @-@ 90 Effects Processor
Rocktron Super C HUSH
MXR Smart Gate
BOSS RGE @-@ 10 (10 band EQ)

= = = Amplification = = =

Marshall JCM800 2203 amplifiers
Marshall JCM800 1960 Cabinets , later ModeFour Speaker Cabinet , supposedly loaded with
Celestion G12T @-@ 75 Speakers

= = Discography = =

1983 : Show No Mercy
1984 : Haunting the Chapel
1985 : Hell Awaits
1986 : Reign in Blood
1988 : South of Heaven
1990 : Seasons in the Abyss
1994 : Divine Intervention
1996 : Undisputed Attitude
1998 : Diabolus in Musica
2001 : God Hates Us All
2006 : Christ Illusion
2009 : World Painted Blood
2015 : Repentless (writing credit " Piano Wire ")