

= Waylon Jennings =

Waylon Arnold Jennings ( pronounced / ˈweɪlən ˈdʒennɪŋz / ; June 15 , 1937 ? February 13 , 2002 ) was an American singer , songwriter , musician , and actor . Jennings began playing guitar at eight and began performing at 12 on KVOW radio . His first band was The Texas Longhorns . Jennings worked as a DJ on KVOW , KDAV , KYTI , and KLLL . In 1958 , Buddy Holly arranged Jennings 's first recording session , of " Jole Blon " and " When Sin Stops ( Love Begins ) " . Holly hired him to play bass . In Clear Lake , Iowa , Jennings gave up his seat on the ill @-@ fated flight that crashed and killed Holly , J. P. Richardson , Ritchie Valens , and pilot Roger Peterson .

Jennings then worked as a DJ in Coolidge , Arizona , and Phoenix . He formed a rockabilly club band , The Wailors . He recorded for independent label Trend Records and A & M Records before succeeding with RCA Victor after achieving creative control .

During the 1970s , Jennings joined the Outlaw Country movement . He released critically acclaimed albums Lonesome , On 'ry and Mean and Honky Tonk Heroes followed by hit albums Dreaming My Dreams and Are You Ready for the Country . In 1976 , he released the album Wanted ! The Outlaws with Willie Nelson , Tompall Glaser , and Jessi Colter , the first platinum country music album . That success was followed by Ol ' Waylon and the hit song " Luckenbach , Texas . " Jennings was featured in the 1978 album White Mansions performed by various artists documenting the lives of white people in the Confederacy during the Civil War . The songs on the album were written by Paul Kennerley . By the early 1980s , Jennings was struggling with a cocaine addiction , which he quit in 1984 . Later , he joined the country supergroup The Highwaymen with Nelson , Kris Kristofferson , and Johnny Cash , which released three albums between 1985 and 1995 . During that period , Jennings released the successful album Will the Wolf Survive . He toured less after 1997 to spend more time with his family . Between 1999 and 2001 , his appearances were limited by health problems . On February 13 , 2002 , Jennings died from complications of diabetes .

Jennings also appeared in movies and television series . He was the balladeer for The Dukes of Hazzard , composing and singing the show 's theme song . In 2001 , he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame , which he chose not to attend . In 2007 , he was posthumously awarded the Cliffie Stone Pioneer Award by the Academy of Country Music .

= = Early life = =

Waylon Arnold Jennings was born on June 15 , 1937 , on the J.W. Bittner farm , near Littlefield , Texas . He was the son of Lorene Beatrice ( née Shipley ) and William Albert Jennings . The Jennings family line descended from Irish and Black @-@ Dutch . Meanwhile , the Shipley family moved from Tennessee and settled in Texas . The Shipley line descended from Cherokee and Comanche families .

The name on his birth certificate was Wayland , meaning land by the highway . His name was changed after a Baptist preacher visited Jennings 's parents and congratulated his mother for naming him after the Wayland Baptist University in Plainview , Texas . Lorene Jennings , who had been unaware of the college , changed the spelling to Waylon . Jennings later expressed in his autobiography , " I didn 't like Waylon . It sounded corny and hillbilly , but it 's been good to me , and I 'm pretty well at peace with it right now . "

After working as a laborer on the Bittner farm , Jennings 's father moved the family to Littlefield and established a retail creamery . When Jennings was eight , his mother taught him to play guitar with the tune " Thirty Pieces of Silver " . Jennings used to practice with his relatives ' guitars , until his mother bought him a used Stella , and later ordered a Harmony Patrician . Early influences were Bob Wills , Floyd Tillman , Ernest Tubb , Hank Williams , Carl Smith , and Elvis Presley .

Beginning at family gatherings , Jennings advanced to perform at the Youth Center with Anthony Bonanno , followed by appearances at the local Jaycees and Lions Clubs . He won a talent show at Channel 13 , in Lubbock , singing " Hey Joe " . He later made frequent performances at the Palace Theater in Littlefield , during local talent night .

= = Music career = =

= = = Beginnings in music = = =

The 12 @-@ year @-@ old Jennings auditioned for a spot on KVOW in Littlefield , Texas . Owner J.B. McShan , along with Emil Macha , recorded Jennings 's performance . McShan liked his style and hired him for a weekly 30 @-@ minute program . Following this successful introduction , Jennings formed his own band . He asked Macha to play bass for him , and gathered other friends and acquaintances to form The Texas Longhorns . The style of the band , a mixture of Country and Western and Bluegrass music , was often not well received .

At age 16 , after several disciplinary infractions , tenth @-@ grader Jennings was convinced to drop out of high school by the superintendent . Upon leaving school , he worked for his father in the produce store , also taking temporary jobs . Jennings felt that music , his favorite activity , would turn into his career . The next year , Jennings and The Texas Longhorns recorded a demo of the songs " Stranger in My Home " and " There 'll Be a New Day " at KFYO radio in Lubbock . Meanwhile , he drove a truck for the Thomas Land Lumber Company , and a concrete truck for the Roberts Lumber Company . Tired of the owner , and after a minor driving accident , Jennings quit . Other local musicians and he often performed at Country radio station KDAV ; during this , he met Buddy Holly at a Lubbock restaurant . Holly and he became friends , often meeting during local shows . Jennings also attended Holly 's performances on KDAV 's Sunday Party .

In addition to performing on air for KVOW , Jennings started to work as a DJ in 1956 , and moved to Lubbock . His program ran for six hours , from 4 : 00 in the afternoon to 10 : 00 in the evening . Jennings played two hours of Country classics , two of current Country , and two of mixed recordings . During those final two hours , Jennings played artists such as Chuck Berry and Little Richard . The owner reprimanded him each time he aired the recordings , and when he then played two Richard records in a row , the owner fired him .

During his time at KVOW , Jennings was visited by DJ Sky Corbin , who worked at KLVT in Levelland . Corbin was impressed with his voice , and decided to visit Jennings at the station after hearing him sing a jingle to the tune of Hank Snow 's " I 'm Moving On " . Jennings expressed his economic struggle to live on a US \$ 50 @-@ a @-@ week salary . Corbin invited Jennings to visit KLVT , where he eventually took Corbin 's then @-@ vacated position . The Corbin family later purchased KLLL , in Lubbock . They changed the format of the station to Country , becoming the main competition of KDAV . The Corbins hired Jennings as the station 's first DJ .

Jennings produced commercials and created jingles with the rest of the DJs . As their popularity increased , the DJs made public appearances . Jennings 's events included live performances . During one performance , Buddy 's father , L.O. Holley , approached them with his son 's latest record , and requested them to play it at the station . L.O. mentioned his son 's intention to start producing artists himself , and Corbin recommended Jennings . After returning from his England tour , Buddy Holly visited KLLL .

Holly took Jennings as his first artist . He outfitted him with new clothes , and worked with him to improve his image . He arranged a session for Jennings at Norman Petty 's recording studios in Clovis , New Mexico . On September 10 , Jennings recorded the songs " Jole Blon " and " When Sin Stops ( Love Begins ) " with Holly and Tommy Allsup on guitars with saxophonist King Curtis . Holly then hired Jennings to play electric bass for him during his " Winter Dance Party Tour " .

= = = Winter Dance Party Tour = = =

Before the tour , Holly vacationed with his wife in Lubbock , and visited Jennings ' radio station in December 1958 . Jennings and Sky Corbin performed the hand claps to Holly 's tune " You 're the One " . Jennings and Holly soon left for New York City , arriving on January 15 , 1959 . Jennings stayed at Holly 's apartment by Washington Square Park , on the days prior to a meeting scheduled on the headquarters of the General Artists Corporation , that organized the tour . They later took a

train to Chicago to join the band .

The Winter Dance Party tour began in Milwaukee , Wisconsin , on January 23 , 1959 . The amount of travel created logistical problems , as the distance between venues had not been considered when scheduling each performance . Adding to the problem , the unheated tour buses twice broke down in freezing weather , with dire consequences . Holly 's drummer Carl Bunch suffered frostbite to his toes ( while aboard the bus ) and was hospitalized , so Buddy Holly made the decision to find another means of transportation . Before their performance at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake , Iowa , Holly chartered a four @-@ seat Beechcraft Bonanza airplane at Dwyer Flying Service in Mason City , Iowa , for himself , Jennings , and Allsup , to avoid the long bus trip to their next venue in Moorhead , Minnesota . Following the Clear Lake show ( which ended around midnight ) , Tommy Allsup lost a coin toss and gave up his seat on the charter plane to Ritchie Valens , while Waylon Jennings voluntarily gave up his seat to J. P. Richardson , who was suffering from the flu and complaining about how cold and uncomfortable the tour bus was for a man of his size . When Holly learned that his band mates had given up their seats on the plane and had chosen to take the bus rather than fly , a friendly banter between Holly and Jennings ensued , and it would come back to haunt Jennings for decades to follow : Holly jokingly told Jennings , " Well , I hope your ol ' bus freezes up ! " Jennings jokingly replied , " Well , I hope your ol ' plane crashes ! " Less than an hour and a half later , shortly after 1 : 00 AM on February 3 , 1959 ( later known as The Day the Music Died ) , Holly 's charter plane crashed at full throttle into a cornfield outside Mason City , Iowa , instantly killing all on board .

Later that morning , Jennings ' family heard on the radio that " Buddy Holly and his band had been killed . " After calling his family , Jennings called Sky Corbin at KLLL from Fargo to say that he was alive . The General Artists Corporation promised to pay a first @-@ class ticket for Jennings and the band to assist Holly 's funeral in Lubbock , in exchange for them playing that night in Moorhead . After the first show , they were initially denied their payment by the venue , but after Jennings 's persistence , they were paid . The flights were never paid , and Jennings and Allsup continued the tour for two more weeks , featuring Jennings as the lead singer . They were paid less than half of the original agreed salary , and upon returning to New York , Jennings put Holly 's guitar and amplifier in a locker in Grand Central Terminal and mailed the keys to Maria Elena Holly . Then , he returned to Lubbock .

For decades afterward , Jennings repeatedly admitted that he felt responsible for the crash that killed Buddy Holly . This sense of guilt precipitated bouts of substance abuse through much of Jennings ' career . The day of the flight was later known as the Day the Music Died . Jennings sang The Stage , which is a touching tribute to the Day the Music Died . He recreates the concert performers on February 2 , 1959 , in order at the Surf Ballroom , starting with Eddie Cochran , then Ritchie Valens , the Big Bopper and , finally , Buddy Holly . This was the concert that preceded the infamous plane crash . The Stage can be found on the Surf Ballroom Winter Dance Party CD .

" Jole Blon " was released on Brunswick in March 1959 with limited success . Now unemployed , he returned to KLLL . Deeply affected by the death of Buddy Holly , Jennings ' performance at the station worsened . He left the station after he was denied a raise , and later worked briefly for the competition , KDAV .

= = = Phoenix and the Nashville Sound = = =

Due to Maxine 's father 's illness , Jennings had to shuttle between Arizona and Texas . While his family lived back in Littlefield , Jennings found a job briefly at KOYL in Odessa , Texas . He moved with his family to Coolidge , Arizona , where his wife 's sister lived . He found a job performing at the Galloping Goose bar , where he was heard by Earl Perrin , who offered him a spot on KCKY . Jennings also played during the intermission at drive @-@ in theaters and in bars . After a successful performance at the Cross Keys Club in Phoenix , Arizona , he was approached by contractors who were building a club for Jimmy D. Musiel , called JD 's . Musiel employed Jennings as his main artist and designed the club around his act .

He formed his backing band , The Waylors , with bassist Paul Foster , guitarist Jerry Gropp , and

drummer Richie Albright . Jennings and his band performed at the newly opened nightspot in Scottsdale , where they soon earned a strong local fanbase . At JD 's , Jennings developed his " rock tempered " style of country music that defined him on his later career .

In 1961 , Jennings signed a recording contract with Trend Records , and experienced moderate success with his single , " Another Blue Day " . His friend , Don Bowman , took demos of Jennings to Jerry Moss , who at the time was starting A & M Records with associate Herb Alpert . On July 9 , 1963 , Jennings signed a contract with A & M that granted him 5 % of record sales . At A & M , he recorded " Love Denied " backed with " Rave On " , and " Four Strong Winds " backed with " Just to Satisfy You " . He followed up by recording demos of " The Twelfth of Never " , " Kisses Sweeter than Wine " , and " Don 't Think Twice , It 's All Right " , and also produced the single " Sing the Girls a Song , Bill " , backed with " The Race Is On " . The singles were released between April and October 1964 .

His records had little success , because A & M 's main releases were folk music rather than Country . He had a few hits on local radio in Phoenix , with " Four Strong Winds " and " Just To Satisfy You " ( co @-@ written with Bowman ) . Meanwhile , he recorded an album on BAT records , called JD 's . After 500 copies were sold at the club , another 500 copies were pressed by the Sounds label . He also played lead guitar for Patsy Montana on a 1964 album .

Singer Bobby Bare heard Jennings 's " Just to Satisfy You " on his car radio while passing through Phoenix , eventually recording it and " Four Strong Winds " . After stopping in Phoenix to attend to a Jennings performance at JD 's , while driving to Las Vegas , Bare stopped and called Chet Atkins in Nashville , suggesting that he needed to sign Jennings .

When he was made aware of the new deal , Waylon was not sure if he should quit his gig at JD 's . He then went to get the advice of his friend , RCA artist Willie Nelson , who had gone to see one of Waylon 's shows . When Willie and Waylon met , after talking about the possibilities and considering Waylon 's profits at the club , Nelson suggested that Waylon should stay in Phoenix and not to move to Nashville .

Nonetheless , Jennings decided to accept the offer , and asked Herb Alpert to release him from his contract with A & M. Alpert agreed , though later A & M would compile all of Jennings 's singles and unreleased material the label had and release it as Don 't Think Twice . Atkins formally signed Jennings to RCA Victor in 1965 . On August 21 , Jennings made his first appearance on the Billboard 's Hot Country Songs chart with " That 's the Chance I 'll Have to Take " .

In 1966 , Jennings released his debut album for RCA Folk @-@ Country , followed by Leavin ' Town and Nashville Rebel . Leavin ' Town resulted in significant chart success as the first two singles " Anita , You 're Dreaming " and " Time to Burn Again " both peaked at no . 17 on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart . The album 's third single , a cover of Gordon Lightfoot 's " ( That 's What You Get ) For Lovin ' Me " , became Jennings 's first top 10 single , peaking at no . 9 . Nashville Rebel was the soundtrack to an independent film of the same name , starring Jennings . The single " Green River " charted on Billboard country singles at # 11 . In 1967 , Jennings released a hit single , " Just to Satisfy You " . During an interview , Jennings remarked that the song was a " pretty good example " of the influence of his work with Buddy Holly and rockabilly music . Jennings produced midchart albums that sold well , including Just to Satisfy You , that included the same @-@ named hit single of 1967 . Jennings 's singles enjoyed success . " The Chokin ' Kind " peaked at number eight on Billboard 's Hot Country Singles in 1967 , while " Only Daddy That 'll Walk the Line " hit number two the following year . In 1969 , his collaboration with The Kimberlys on the single " MacArthur Park " earned a Grammy Award for Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group . His single " Brown Eyed Handsome Man " reached number three at the Hot Country Singles chart by the end of the year .

During this time , Jennings rented an apartment in Nashville with singer Johnny Cash . Jennings and Cash were both managed by " Lucky " Moeller 's booking agency Moeller Talent , Inc . The tours organized by the agency were unproductive , with the artists being booked to venues located far from each other in close dates . After paying for the accommodation and travel expenditures , Jennings 's profits were reduced , with him frequently requesting advances from the agency or RCA Records to play the next venue . While playing 300 days on the road , Jennings 's debt increased

along with his consumption of amphetamines , as he believed himself to be trapped on the circuit .

In 1972 , Jennings released Ladies Love Outlaws . The single that headlined the album became a hit for Jennings , and was his first approach to Outlaw Country . Jennings was accustomed to performing and recording with his own band , The Waylors , a practice that was not encouraged by powerful Nashville producers . Over time , however , Jennings felt limited by the Nashville sound 's lack of artistic freedom . The music style publicized as " Countrypolitan " was characterized by orchestral arrangements , and the absence of traditional Country music instruments . The producers did not let Jennings play his own guitar or select material to record .

= = = Outlaw Country = = =

In an interview , Jennings recalled the restrictions of the Nashville establishment : " They wouldn 't let you do anything . You had to dress a certain way : you had to do everything a certain way .... They kept trying to destroy me .... I just went about my business and did things my way .... You start messing with my music , I get mean . " By 1972 , after the release of Ladies Love Outlaws , his recording contract was nearing an end . Sick with hepatitis , Jennings was hospitalized . Afflicted by disease , and the music industry , he was considering retirement . Albright visited him and convinced him to continue . Albright talked to him about making Neil Reshen his new manager . Meanwhile , Jennings requested a US \$ 25 @, @ 000 royalty advance from RCA Records to cover his living expenses during his recovery . The same day he met Reshen , RCA sent Jerry Bradley to offer Jennings US \$ 5 @, @ 000 as a bonus for signing a new 5 % royalty deal with RCA , the same terms he had accepted in 1965 . After reviewing with Reshen , he rejected the offer and hired Reshen .

Reshen started to renegotiate Jennings 's recording and touring contracts . At a meeting in a Nashville airport , Jennings introduced Reshen to Willie Nelson . By the end of the meeting , Reshen had become Nelson 's manager , as well . Jennings 's new deal gained him a \$ 75 @, @ 000 advance and artistic control . Reshen advised Jennings to keep the beard that he had grown in the hospital , to match the image of Outlaw Country .

By 1973 , Nelson had returned to music , finding success with Atlantic Records . Now based in Austin , Texas , he had made inroads into the rock and roll press by attracting rock audiences . Atlantic Records was now attempting to sign Jennings , but Nelson 's rise to popularity persuaded RCA to renegotiate with Jennings before losing another potential star .

In 1973 , Jennings released Lonesome , On 'ry and Mean and Honky Tonk Heroes , the first albums recorded and released under his creative control . The release of these albums heralded a major turning point for Jennings , kicking off his most critically and commercially successful years . More hit albums followed with This Time and The Ramblin ' Man , both released in 1974 . The title tracks of both albums topped the Billboard Country singles chart , with the self @- @ penned " This Time " becoming Jennings 's first no . 1 single . Dreaming My Dreams , released in 1975 , included the no . 1 single " Are You Sure Hank Done It This Way " and was his first album to be certified gold by the RIAA ; it was also the first of his next six consecutive , solo studio albums to be certified gold or higher . In 1976 , Jennings released Are You Ready for the Country , Jennings wanted the record to be produced by Los Angeles producer Ken Mansfield . Although RCA denied the request , Jennings and The Waylors went to Los Angeles and recorded with Mansfield at his expense . After a month , Jennings presented the master tape to Chet Atkins , who decided to release it . The album hit number one on Billboard 's country albums three times the same year , topping the charts for 10 weeks . It was named Country album of the year in 1976 by Record World magazine and it was certified gold by the RIAA .

In 1976 , Jennings released the album Wanted ! The Outlaws , recorded with Willie Nelson , Tompall Glaser , and Jessi Colter for RCA . The album was the first Country music album certified platinum . The following year , RCA issued Ol ' Waylon , an album that produced a hit duet with Nelson , " Luckenbach , Texas " . The album Waylon and Willie followed in 1978 , producing the hit single " Mamas Don 't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys " . Jennings released I 've Always Been Crazy , also in 1978 . The same year , at the peak of his success , Jennings began to feel

limited by the outlaw movement . Jennings referred to the overexploitation of the image in the song " Don 't You Think This Outlaw Bit Has Done Got Out of Hand ? " , claiming that the movement had become a " self @-@ fulfilling prophecy " . In 1979 , he released Greatest Hits , which was certified gold the same year , and quintuple platinum in 2002 .

Also in 1979 , Jennings joined the cast of the CBS series The Dukes of Hazzard as the Balladeer , the narrator . The only episode to feature him in person was " Welcome , Waylon Jennings " , during the seventh season . Jennings played himself , presented as an old friend of the Duke family . For the show , he also wrote and sang the theme song " Good Ol ' Boys " , which became the biggest hit of his career . Released as a single in promotion with the show , it became Jennings 's 12th single to reach number one on the Billboard Country Singles chart . It was also a crossover hit , peaking at no . 21 on the Billboard Hot 100 .

= = = Later years = = =

In the mid @-@ 1980s , Johnny Cash , Kris Kristofferson , Nelson , and Jennings formed a successful group called The Highwaymen . Aside from his work with The Highwaymen , Jennings released a gold album WWII ( 1982 ) with Willie Nelson .

In 1985 , Jennings joined with USA for Africa to record " We Are the World " , but he left the studio because of a dispute over the song 's lyrics that were to be sung in Swahili . Ironically , after Jennings left the session , the idea was dropped at the prompting of Stevie Wonder , who pointed out that Ethiopians did not speak Swahili . By this time , his sales had decreased . After the release of Sweet Mother Texas , Jennings signed with Music Corporation of America . The debut release with the label Will the Wolf Survive ( 1985 ) peaked at number one in Billboard 's Country albums in 1986 . Jennings 's initial success tailed off , and in 1990 , he signed with Epic Records . His first release , The Eagle , became his final top 10 album . During the late ' 80s @-@ early ' 90s , Jennings and his contemporaries such as Faron Young , Merle Haggard , and George Jones , were gradually evicted from the airwaves in favor of a younger generation of pop @-@ influenced country artists such as Alan Jackson and Reba McEntire .

Also in 1985 , he made a cameo appearance in the live @-@ action children 's film Sesame Street Presents : Follow That Bird . In the movie , he plays a turkey farm truck driver who gives Big Bird a lift . He also sings one of the film 's songs , entitled " Ain 't No Road Too Long " .

In 1993 , in collaboration with Rincom Children 's Entertainment , Jennings recorded an album of children 's songs , Cowboys , Sisters , Rascals & Dirt , which included " Shooter 's Theme " , a tribute to his 14 @-@ year @-@ old with the theme of " a friend of mine " .

Although his record sales and radio play dwindled during the ' 90s , Jennings continued to draw large crowds at his live performances . In 1997 , after the Lollapalooza tour , he decreased his tour schedule and became centered on his family .

In 1998 , Jennings teamed up with Bare , Jerry Reed , and Mel Tillis to form the Old Dogs . The group recorded a double album of songs by Shel Silverstein . In mid @-@ 1999 , Jennings assembled what he referred to as his " hand @-@ picked dream team " and formed Waylon & The Waymore Blues Band . Consisting primarily of former Waylors , the 13 @-@ member group performed concerts from 1999 to 2001 . In January 2000 , Jennings recorded what became his final album at Nashville 's historic Ryman Auditorium , Never Say Die : Live .

= = Music style and image = =

Jennings 's music was characterized by his " powerful " singing voice , noted by his " rough @-@ edged quality , " as well as his phrasing and texture . He was also recognized for his " spanky @-@ twang " guitar style . To create his sound , he used a pronounced ' phaser ' effect ( see ' Modulation Effects ' : below ) plus a mixture of thumb and fingers during the rhythmic parts , while using picks for the lead runs . He combined hammer @-@ on and pull @-@ off riffs , with eventual upper @-@ fret double stops and modulation effects . Jennings played a 1953 Fender Telecaster , a used guitar that was a gift from The Waylors . Jennings 's bandmates adorned his guitar with a distinctive

leather cover that featured a black background with a white floral work . Jennings further customized it by filing down the frets to lower the strings on the neck to obtain the slapping sound . Among his other guitars , Jennings used a 1950 Fender Broadcaster from the mid @-@ 1970s , until he gave it to guitarist Reggie Young in 1993 . The leather covers of his guitars were carved by leather artist Terry Lankford .

His signature image was characterized by his long hair and beard , as well as his black hat and the black leather vest he wore during his appearances .

= = Personal life = =

Jennings was married four times , and had six children . He was first married to Maxine Carol Lawrence in 1956 at age 18 , with whom he had four children : Terry Vance Jennings ( born January 21 , 1957 ) , Julie Rae Jennings ( born August 12 , 1958 ) , Buddy Dean Jennings ( born March 21 , 1960 ) , and Deana Jennings . Jennings married again on December 10 , 1962 to Lynne Jones , adopting a child , Tomi Lynne . They divorced in 1967 . He next married Barbara Rood . He composed the song " This Time " about the trials and tribulations of his marriages and divorces . He married for the fourth and final time in Phoenix , Arizona , on October 26 , 1969 to Jessi Colter . Colter and Jennings had one son , Waylon Albright " Shooter " Jennings ( born May 19 , 1979 ) . Colter had one daughter , Jennifer , from her previous marriage to Duane Eddy . In the early 1980s , Colter and Jennings nearly divorced due to his addiction to drugs and other forms of substance abuse . However , they remained together until Jennings 's death in 2002 .

In 1997 , he gave up touring to be closer to his family . To set an example about the importance of education to his son Waylon Albright , Jennings earned a GED at age 52 .

= = Addiction and recovery = =

Jennings started to consume amphetamines while he lived with Johnny Cash during the mid @-@ 1960s . Jennings later stated , " Pills were the artificial energy on which Nashville ran around the clock . " In 1977 , Jennings was arrested by federal agents for conspiracy and possession of cocaine with intent to distribute . A private courier warned the Drug Enforcement Administration about the package sent to Jennings by a New York colleague that contained 27 grams of cocaine . The DEA and the police searched Jennings 's recording studio . They found no evidence , because while they were waiting for a search warrant , Jennings disposed of the cocaine . The charges were later dropped and Jennings was released . The episode was recounted in Jennings 's song " Don 't You Think This Outlaw Bit 's Done Got Outta Hand ? "

During the early 1980s , his cocaine addiction intensified . Jennings claimed to have spent \$ 1 @,@ 500 a day on his habit , draining his personal finances and leaving him bankrupt with debt up to \$ 2 @.@ 5 million . Though he insisted on repaying the debt and did additional tours to earn the funds , his work became less focused and his tours deteriorated . Jennings decided to quit his addictions , leased a home in the Phoenix area , and spent a month detoxing himself , intending to start using cocaine again in a more controlled fashion afterward . In 1984 , he quit cocaine . Jennings claimed that his son Shooter was his main inspiration to quit permanently .

= = Illness and death = =

Jennings 's health had been deteriorating for years before his death . After quitting cocaine , he ended his habit of smoking six packs of cigarettes daily in 1988 . In December 1988 , he underwent triple heart bypass surgery after suffering chest pains while on his tour bus . By 2000 , his diabetes worsened , and the pain reduced his mobility , forcing Jennings to end most touring . Later the same year , he underwent surgery to improve his leg circulation . In December 2001 , his left foot was amputated at a hospital in Phoenix . On February 13 , 2002 , Jennings died in his sleep of diabetic complications in Chandler , Arizona . He was buried in the Mesa City Cemetery , in Mesa , Arizona . At the funeral ceremony , on February 15 , Jessi Colter sang " Storms Never Last " for the attendees

, who included Jennings 's close friends and fellow musicians .

= = Recognition = =

Between 1966 and 1995 , 54 Jennings albums charted , with 11 reaching number one . Meanwhile , between 1965 and 1991 , 96 singles charted , with 16 number ones . In October 2001 , Jennings was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame . In one final act of defiance , he did not attend the ceremony and opted instead to send son Buddy Dean Jennings .

On July 6 , 2006 , Jennings was inducted to Hollywood 's Rock Wall in Hollywood , California . On June 20 , 2007 , Jennings was posthumously awarded the Cliffie Stone Pioneer Award by the Academy of Country Music .

= = Legacy = =

Jennings 's music had a major influence on several neotraditionalist and alternative country artists , including Hank Williams , Jr . , The Marshall Tucker Band , Travis Tritt , Steve Earle , Jamey Johnson , John Anderson , his son , Shooter Jennings , and Hank Williams III .

In 2008 , his first posthumous album , Waylon Forever , was released . The album consisted of songs recorded with his son Shooter when he was 16 . In 2012 , Waylon : The Music Inside a three @-@ volume project , consisting of covers of Jennings 's songs by different artists , was released . The same year , it was announced for September the release of Goin ' Down Rockin ' : The Last Recordings , a set of 12 songs recorded by Jennings and bassist Robby Turner before his death in 2002 . Jennings 's family was reluctant to release any new material because they did not feel comfortable at the time . The songs only featured Jennings and Turner on the bass , while further accompaniment would be added later . Ten years after , Turner completed the recordings with the help of former Waylors . The Jennings family approved the release despite the launch of a new business focused on his estate . Shooter Jennings arranged deals for a clothing line , while also launching a renewed website , and started talks with different producers about the making of a biographical film .

= = Discography = =

= = Awards = =

= = = Journals = = =

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