

Still can't help loving ELVIS

Long live the King, who would have been 75 on Friday. In tribute, here are **75 GEMS** you should know about him

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If you're a real Elvis Presley fan, you knew well before the coverage of his upcoming birthday that he would have turned 75 on Friday. The celebration will be marked by tribute concerts, movie marathons, book releases and more, proving that The King is still king. You also probably know that Presley was a twin, that Priscilla was only 14 when she met her future husband and that he liked fried peanut butter and banana sandwiches. Here are 75 things that you may not have known about him.



Elvis with his parents, Vernon and Gladys. His first recording was a gift for his mom.

1 Elvis is Norse for "all wise."
2 Presley almost died in a Tupelo, Miss., tornado when he was 15 months old.
3 Research shows that "Elvis" is one of the most popular passwords for computers.
4 When Presley was 2, he wiggled out of his mother's grip and joined the choir to sing during an Assembly of God Church service.
5 When he was 10, he sang "Old Shep" during a children's talent show. He finished fifth.
6 At 11, Presley got a guitar. He really wanted a bicycle (some say a rifle), but his parents couldn't afford it.
7 Once a boy he was wrestling with broke a hip.
8 The first time Presley recorded, it was for his mother. He paid \$4 to Sun Studio to press two songs — "My Happiness" and "That's When Your Heartaches Begin" — as a gift for her.
9 Presley recorded anywhere from 600 to 1,200 songs, depending on whether the list includes unfinished works, alternate versions, bootlegged recordings, etc.
10 After Presley's first TV appearance in 1956, Jackie Gleason said, "The kid has no right behaving like a sex maniac on a national show."

11 Parents got freaked out, too. On Long Island, a 14-year-old girl told the press: "My parents locked up my Elvis records, and my father broke my record player."
12 Another Long Island teen is captured in a set of iconic Alfred Wertheimer photos in 1956 — the white-gloved girl got out of a cab with her father in midtown Manhattan, saw Presley there, talked to him and broke down crying when he left.
13 Sometimes, Presley would sign autographs on fans' breasts — "Elvis" on the left and "Presley" on the right.
14 In 1965, Presley talked about entering a monastery.
15 Presley started wearing a chai necklace because his mother Gladys' maternal grandmother was Jewish — the reason why he added a Star of David on his mother's gravestone in the mid-1960s.
16 When asked why he wore the necklace, he said, "I

PHOTOS

Viva Elvis!

We've got plenty of pics of the King through the years

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Now, not only his hairdresser knows for sure: Presley used Miss Clairol 51 D, "Black Velvet."

don't want to miss out on going to heaven on a technicality."
17 He also is said to have been partly Scottish, Irish, German, Welsh, Cherokee Indian and French.
18 A tartan was created in 2007 for the 30th anniversary of Presley's death. It contains pink, baby blue, black and gold.

19 Presley's 1961 hit "Can't Help Falling in Love" is set to the melody of "Plaisir D'Amour," an 18th century French love song.
20 Presley loved biscuits and gravy, potato cheese soup and meatloaf with mushroom gravy, but he also loved the fat-free, antioxidant-rich, very healthy beefsteak tomato.

21 He hated fish, and wouldn't allow Priscilla to eat it at Graceland.
22 Presley preferred to take sponge baths, using a rag and soap.
23 As a teenager, Presley worked as an usher at Loew's State movie theater in Memphis. He was fired when another usher ratted him out



In the Army, the Germans called Elvis the "rock and roll matador."

for getting free candy from the girl working the concessions stand.

24 He got to wear another type of uniform when he joined the ROTC in the 10th grade.

25 Although Presley was honored by his commanding officer for his "cheerfulness and drive and continually outstanding leadership ability," some Presley insiders felt that his time in the Army tamed him too much.
26 The Germans called Presley "the rock and roll matador."

27 He liked to smoke thin German cigars.

28 While serving in the Army overseas, his one disappointment was never meeting Brigitte Bardot.

29 Presley's movie idol was Tony Curtis, who had black shiny hair.

30 Presley used Miss Clairol 51 D, "Black Velvet."

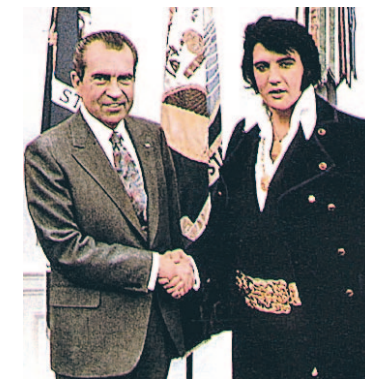
31 The first time Presley's hair was professionally colored, the makeup department at Paramount used "mink brown" to make it look black on screen.

32 Presley once used black shoe polish when he did it himself.

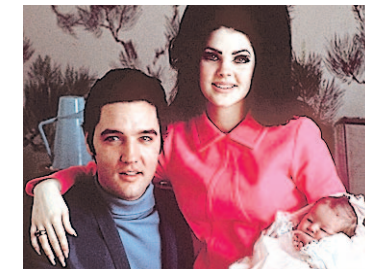
33 He also dyed his eyelashes, which caused health problems later in life.

34 In between filming 1956's "Love Me Tender" and 1957's "Loving You," Presley had his nose done, his teeth capped and his acne treated.

35 Several big-time stars say they were influenced by



Richard Nixon thought Elvis dressed oddly when they met.



Elvis with wife Priscilla and new daughter Lisa Marie

Presley after seeing him perform when they were kids, including Bruce Springsteen, Roy Orbison and Cher.

36 Presley's romance with Natalie Wood was short-lived, some saying it ended because he was just not that into her (and didn't like the way she smelled).

37 He performed "Unchained Melody" only during the last six months of his life.



Elvis in Memphis for his 25th anniversary concert. Memphis Mafia called him "Crazy."

FOR MORE ELVIS

IN TODAY'S FANFARE
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Ways to celebrate Elvis' birthday on Long Island

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38 Some commentators say Presley's voice spanned three octaves.

39 Presley had a slight stutter.

40 Presley used A&D ointment to keep his lips soft.

41 When he was young, Presley could lose several pounds during a concert.

42 Later in life, Presley topped the scales at 250 pounds.

43 Presley loved "The Tonight Show," until Johnny Carson joked about him being "fat and 40."

44 Presley was said to be as fit as a 21-year-old when he taped the '68 Comeback Special. He was actually 33.

45 He almost didn't go on-stage the first night taping the NBC show.

46 He recorded 15 songs with the word "blue" in



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Local faves had a good 10 years

Before we completely leave the Aughts behind, the time seems right to salute Long Island's MVPs in the decade, successes to shoot for in the new decade.

According to Billboard's decade-end issue, here are the Long Island scene's biggest winners in the Aughts: **MARIAH CAREY** The Greenlawn native's "We Belong Together" was the decade's biggest single, and her album "The Emancipation of Mimi" ended up as the 27th biggest album, putting her at No. 11 on the list of biggest artists in the decade.

BILLY JOEL Though he didn't release any new pop material in The Aughts, his touring success didn't waver. Joel was the 10th-biggest touring artist of the decade, playing for 4.1 million people over 241 shows, 213 of which sold out, and grossing \$418.4 million. His 12 sellouts at Madison Square Garden in 2006 made up the 15th highest-grossing run of the decade, grossing \$19.2 million.

ASHANTI The Glen Cove native's "Foolish" was No. 19 on the Aughts' singles chart, while her duet with Ja Rule, "Always on Time" finished at No. 82. Her debut "Ashanti" finished at No. 101 on the decade's biggest-album chart, making her the No. 41 artist overall.

JENNIFER LOPEZ and **MARC ANTHONY** Brookville's power couple also did well. Lopez fielded two singles — "I'm Real" (No. 30), "Ain't It Funny" (No. 62) — and two albums, "J.Lo" (No. 87) and "This Is Me... Then" (No. 189), on the decade-end charts, finishing as the No. 27 artist overall. Anthony scored two albums on the top Latin Albums charts, "Desde un Principio" (No. 15) and "Libre" (No. 16).

TAKING BACK SUNDAY The Rockville Centre-based band's "Where You Want to Be" finished at No. 25 on the biggest independent albums of the decade.

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