



Tarzan TV Star Passes Away at 86

Description

Ron Ely, the strikingly attractive and charismatic Texan who embodied the legendary Lord of the Jungle in the inaugural television series depicting Tarzan, has passed away, as confirmed by his daughter Kirsten to [Fox News Digital](#). He was 86 years old.

Ely departed this life on September 29 at his daughter's residence in proximity to Santa Barbara, as reported by *The New York Times* [reported](#).

In addition to his role as Tarzan, Ely served as the host of the Miss America pageant during the years 1980 and 1981, succeeding the long-time emcee Bert Parks, and later helmed the syndicated game show *Face the Music*.

Standing at an impressive 6 feet 4 inches, Ely, with his striking blue eyes, appeared alongside Clint Walker in *The Night of the Grizzly* and starred opposite Ursula Andress in *Once Before I Die* in 1966, just prior to his casting as Tarzan in an NBC series produced by Sy Weintraub.

Ely was offered the role of Tarzan after former NFL linebacker Mike Henry abruptly abandoned the project, following an unfortunate incident involving a chimp. Reflecting on his initial hesitation to accept the iconic role, Ely later recounted, "I thought, 'No way do I want to step into that bear trap. You do Tarzan and you are stamped for life.' And I was certainly right!" Encouraged by his agent to seize the opportunity, he soon found himself en route to Brazil to film the pilot episode.

The series, which incorporated filming in Central America and Mexico, premiered in September 1966, and Ely executed his own stunts throughout its two-season, 57-episode duration, noting the difficulty in finding a suitable stunt double given his scant costume.

Ely later expressed relief at the conclusion of the series in March 1968, remarking on the toll it took on his physical and mental well-being. "I was mentally and physically worn out," he stated, acknowledging the numerous injuries he sustained during filming.

Born Ronald Pierce Ely on June 21, 1938, in Hereford, Texas, he graduated from Amarillo High School in 1956 before briefly attending the University of Texas at Austin. Never fully feeling at home in academia, Ely wandered westward to pursue a career in acting, ultimately making his screen debut in the 1958 film adaptation of *South Pacific* before signing with 20th Century Fox.

Throughout his career, Ely played multifaceted roles across film and television, contributing significantly to the entertainment industry. Tragically, on October 15, 2019, his second wife, Valerie Lundeen Ely, was murdered by their son in a horrifying incident that shook his family.

In the words of his daughter Kirsten, "My father was a hero to many. An actor, writer, coach, and mentor, he wielded an extraordinary influence wherever he roamed. His indelible impact on others is unparalleled; there was something genuinely magical about him." Ely is survived by his daughters, Kirsten and Kaitland.



Vocabulary List:

1. **Charismatic** /,kærɪz'mætɪk/ (adjective): Having a magnetic charm or appeal.
2. **Embodied** /ɪm'bɒdɪd/ (verb): Represented or expressed something in a tangible form.
3. **Proximity** /prɒk'sɪmɪti/ (noun): Nearness in space time or relationship.
4. **Stunts** /stʌnts/ (noun): A difficult or dangerous feat performed for entertainment.
5. **Toll** /toʊl/ (noun): The extent of damage or loss caused by an event.
6. **Indelible** /ɪn'delɪbəl/ (adjective): Making a mark that cannot be erased or removed.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which adjective describes a person who has a compelling charm or attractiveness?
Option: Appealing
Option: Dull
Option: Chaotic
Option: Stale
2. What is the price or cost of something especially in terms of negative consequences?
Option: Benefit
Option: Profit
Option: Loss
Option: Cost
3. Which word means to start or undertake a journey or course of action?
Option: Endured
Option: Stopped
Option: Commenced
Option: Deferred
4. What is a claim or assertion that someone has done something wrong or illegal typically without proof?
Option: Fact
Option: Assumption
Option: Alibi
Option: Accusation
5. Which term refers to something that operates independently or self-governs?



- Option: Dependent
- Option: Democratic
- Option: Isolated
- Option: Independent

6. What adjective describes something that is attractive or tempting?

- Option: Repulsive
- Option: Distracting
- Option: Unappealing
- Option: Appealing

7. Which word means to attract and hold the interest or attention of someone?

- Option: Bore
- Option: Tolerate
- Option: Repel
- Option: Fascinate

8. What is the monitoring of behavior activities or information for the purpose of gathering information?

- Option: Intervention
- Option: Privacy
- Option: Observation
- Option: Isolation

9. Which adverb relates to the study of organisms and their interactions with each other and their environment?

- Option: Scientifically
- Option: Botanically
- Option: Biologically
- Option: Environmentally

10. What is a state of commotion or loud and confused noise typically caused by a crowd of people?

- Option: Silence
- Option: Peace
- Option: Calmness
- Option: Chaos

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The once unique artisanal product became _____ after it gained mass appeal in the market.

12. Despite the evidence presented he maintained his _____ of involvement in the



scandal.

13. The heated _____ between the two rivals ended with both parties walking away angry and unsatisfied.

14. In the sports arena athletes must continuously _____ with injuries and setbacks to achieve success.

15. The virtual reality game completely _____ players in a realistic and interactive world.

16. His actions truly _____ the spirit of generosity and kindness.

17. The new apartment complex boasts its _____ to public transportation and shopping centers.

18. Efficient _____ of resources is crucial for sustainable development in a rapidly changing world.

19. The company faced multiple _____ of unethical practices that tarnished its reputation.

20. The neighborhood is known for its _____ residents and luxurious mansions.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The action movie featured thrilling performed by expert stunt performers.
22. The heartfelt message left an mark on the recipient touching them deeply.
23. The art gallery was dedicated to local artists and their creative works.
24. The historical novel vividly the life and adventures of a legendary explorer.
25. The ancient myth told the tale of the deity's human among mortals.
26. The crime thriller revolved around the protagonist's fight to prove his innocence and avoid .



27. The investigation revealed a pattern of and intimidation tactics used by the criminal organization.
28. The lawyer argued that the accident was caused by the defendant's and lack of care.
29. The new policy was officially by the board after months of deliberation.
30. The controversial decision sparked widespread and heated debates among the community.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Appealing 2. Cost 3. Commenced 4. Accusation 5. Independent 6. Appealing 7. Fascinate 8. Observation 9. Environmentally 10. Chaos

Gap-Fill: 11. commercialized 12. denial 13. confrontation 14. contend 15. immerses 16. embodied 17. proximity 18. utilization 19. allegations 20. affluent

Matching sentence: 1. Stunts 2. Indelible 3. Showcasing 4. Chronicles 5. Incarnation 6. Incarceration 7. Coercion 8. Negligence 9. Sanctioned 10. Controversy

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL6

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