

Star Trek's 'Mr. Spock,' Leonard Nimoy, Dies

Leonard Nimoy, famed for his portrayal of Mr. Spock on the *Star Trek* science fiction TV series and movies, has died after battling chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, the *New York Times* reported on Friday. He was 83.

The paper, citing confirmation from his wife, Susan Bay Nimoy, said Nimoy, who had grappled with a love-hate relationship for his logical human-alien screen self, died Friday morning at his Los Angeles home.

Last year, Nimoy disclosed on Twitter that he had been diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a progressive lung disease such as emphysema or chronic bronchitis.

"I quit smoking 30 years ago. Not soon enough," he tweeted to his 810,000 followers. "Grandpa says, quit now!!"

Nimoy had other roles during a long career in TV, film and theater and directed successful movies, wrote books, composed poetry, published photographs and recorded music. But he will be forever linked to the half-Vulcan, half-human Spock in the original 1960s "Star Trek" TV series and subsequent movies.

Known for suppressing his emotions and using strict logic to guide his actions, Spock became one of the best-known and most beloved sci-fi characters of the late 20th century.

For years, Nimoy resented that Spock defined him but came to accept that his life would be intertwined with the alien who inspired a fervent fan following for "Star Trek."

Nimoy had often battled *Star Trek* creators during the original series over their conception of Spock, and his input was

responsible for developing many aspects of the character.

He came up with the Vulcan nerve grip that rendered foes unconscious, as well as the split-fingered Vulcan “live long and prosper” salute, which he said was inspired by a gesture he had seen worshippers make in his synagogue when he was a boy.

Nimoy signed off his tweets with “LLAP,” an abbreviation of Spock’s trademark phrase “live long and prosper.”

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