



David Del Conte

September 15, 1940 - June 12, 2016

Del Conte, David, 75, best known as Damon the Gypsy, a Rock Icon from the 60's, died peacefully in his home in Capistrano Beach, CA on June 12th.

Born to Frank and Lena Del Conte in Rochester, NY, Dave moved with his family to Southern California in 1949. In his teens, Dave became an avid surfer and later began writing music and performing as a club singer. The kickoff to his wild and wonderful career came in the early 60's when he released his first hit, "The Lonely Surfer," as a single which launched him to become a top 40 artist. Influenced by the 60's counter culture, his pop music shifted to psychedelic rock with the release of his first major album "Song of a Gypsy". Dave traveled the US, Europe, and South America as a gypsy rocker. "Song of a Gypsy," has become a staple of 60's psychedelic folk rock.

In the 80's Dave settled in San Clemente to run one of the family's bowling alleys - Saddleback Lanes in Mission Viejo, where he was known as an enthusiastic and generous leader.

Inside and outside of the studio, Dave was a compassionate, highly creative firecracker of a man who brightened the lives of friends, family, and fans. Later in life, his music re-emerged on film and television shows such as Entourage and True Blood. Dave mentored many talented musicians and founded a philanthropic organization to support their musical development.

His interests included surfing the California coast and spending time with his family.

He will be remembered for his wild gypsy soul, unsurpassed generosity, and deep love for his family and friends. He is survived by his younger brother Ken, three daughters, and two granddaughters.