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Eddie Van Halen Dead at 65 from Cancer

EDDIE VAN HALEN DEAD AT 65

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Eddie Van Halen -- the legendary guitarist and co-founder of Van Halen -- has died after a long battle with throat cancer ... TMZ has learned.

Sources directly connected to the rock star tell us ... he died at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica Tuesday. His wife, **Janie**, was by his side, along with his son, **Wolfgang**, and **Alex**, Eddie's brother and drummer.

We're told in the last 72 hours Eddie's ongoing health battle went massively downhill -- doctors discovered his throat cancer had moved to his brain as well as other organs.

As you know, Eddie has been battling cancer for well over a decade. Our sources say he's been in and out of the hospital over the past year -- including last November for **intestinal issues** -- and recently underwent a round of chemo



Nevertheless, he continued to attend concerts and rehearse music with his son, Wolfgang, who -- if ya don't know -- became Van Halen's bassist in 2006.



Eddie formed the classic rock group in Pasadena in 1972 with his brother, **Alex**, on drums, **Michael Anthony** on bass and **David Lee Roth** singing. Eddie served as the main songwriter on their self-titled debut album in 1978 ... which launched the group into rock superstardom in the '80s.



Eddie was 65.