City of Detroit
CITY COUNCIL
HISTORIC DESIGNATION ADVISORY BOARD
218 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: 313.224.3487 Fax: 313.224.4336
E-mail: historic@detroitmi.gov

March 11, 2019

HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

RE: Petition #670: Lamont “Showboat” Robinson, founder of the Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame submitted a petition requesting that the intersection of Parkside Avenue and McNichol Road to be assigned the secondary street name for David Ruffin in honor of legendary

The Historic Designation Advisory Board (HIDAB) staff has reviewed the documentation submitted to the City Clerk’s office by the petitioner for the establishment of a Secondary Street Sign. Upon review of the documentation submitted (see attachment) staff has determine that reasonable grounds has been provided and therefore has concluded that the petition meets the criteria for Secondary Naming of Street in accordance with Article VII Sections 50-7-31 through Sections 50-7-50 of the 1984 Detroit City Code.

Criteria

As stated in Chapter 50 of the 1984 Detroit City Code, Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article VII, Opening, Closing, Extending, Widening, Vacating, Naming and Renaming of Streets and Assigning Secondary Names to Streets. A secondary street name designation may be sought to recognize a person who achieved prominence as a result of his or her significant, position, contributions to the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, the United States of America, or the international community.

1. Sites, buildings, structures where cultural, social, spiritual, economic, political, architectural history of the community, city, state or nation is particularly reflected or exemplified.
2. Sites, buildings, structures, which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the community, city, state or national history.

Staff is available to answer any questions and or concerns you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Janese Chapman, Deputy Director
Historic Designation Advisory Board
/Attachments
RESOLUTION

BY COUNCIL MEMBER ________________________________

Resolved, That a public hearing will be held by the Detroit City Council Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee in the Committee of the Whole Room, 13th Floor of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center on Thursday, ____________, 2019 at ________ a.m., for the purpose of considering the request of Lamont "Showboat" Robinson, founder of the Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame requesting the secondary street name in honor of David Ruffin in the area of W. McNichols Road and Parkside Avenue to "David Ruffin Ave."
THE CITY OF DETROIT
LET'S NAME THE STREET
PARKSIDE STREET AFTER
THE LATE GREAT
DAVID RUFFIN TO DAVID
RUFFIN STREET, DRIVE, WAY
OR BLVD.

THE HOME OF DAVID RUFFIN
17385 PARKSIDE STREET
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

~David Ruffin, incredible-voiced singer of The Temptations~
He purchased this English Tudor in the fall of 1970. He's buried at Woodlawn Cemetery; section 3, lot 243, grave 3.

His home here on Parkside Street and his gravesite is one of the most visited landmarks for tourists that come into the City of Detroit.
David Ruffin

Background Information

| Birth name | Davis Ell Ruffin |[1] |
| Born | January 18, 1941 |
| | Whynot, Mississippi, U.S. |
| Died | June 1, 1991 (aged 50) |
| | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S. |

Genres
- R&B
- Pop
- Soul
- Disco
- Gospel

Occupation(s) Singer

Instruments
- Vocals
- Drums

Years active 1956–1991

Labels
- Anna
- Chess
- Motown
- Warner Bros.
- RCA

Associated acts
- The Temptations
- Jimmy Ruffin
- Eddie Kendricks
- Dennis Edwards

---

David Ell Ruffin (born Davis Ell Ruffin,[1] January 18, 1941 – June 1, 1991) was an American soul singer and musician most famous for his work as one of the lead singers of The Temptations (1964–68) during the group's "Classic Five" period as it was later known. He was the lead voice on such famous songs as "My Girl" and "Ain't Too Proud to Beg".

Known for his unique raspy and anguished tenor vocals, Ruffin was ranked as one of the 100 Greatest Singers of All Time by Rolling Stone magazine in 2008.[2] He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1989 for his work with The Temptations.[3] Fellow Motown recording artist Marvin Gaye once said admiringly of Ruffin that, "I heard [in his voice] a strength my own voice lacked".[2]

---

Early life

Ruffin was born Davis Ell Ruffin in the rural unincorporated community of Whynot, Mississippi, 15 miles from Meridian, Mississippi. He was the third born son of Elias "Eli" Ruffin, a Baptist minister, and Ophelia Ruffin. His siblings were Quincy B. Ruffin, Rita Mae Ruffin, and Jimmy L. Ruffin. Ruffin also had another sister, who died in infancy.
Ancestry

David Ruffin's parents were both natives of Mississippi. His father Eli worked as a truck driver at numerous lumber mills, and his mother Ophelia worked out of their home. Eli's parents had moved from Alabama to Mississippi, because of the harsh circumstances of living after the American Civil War. Prior to living in Alabama, David Ruffin's great-grandparents, John Ruffin and Clara Ruffin, had moved from Bertie County, North Carolina. John Ruffin was a Civil War Veteran, fighting with the 14th United States Colored Heavy Artillery Regiment.

Childhood and adolescence

Ruffin's father was strict and at times violently abusive.[4] Ruffin's mother died ten months after his birth in 1941; and his father married Earline, a schoolteacher, in 1942.[5] As a young child, Ruffin, along with his other siblings (older brothers Quincy and Jimmy, and sister Rita Mae), traveled with their father and their stepmother as a family gospel group, opening shows for Mahalia Jackson and The Five Blind Boys of Mississippi, among others.[4][6] Ruffin sang in the choir at Mount Salem Methodist Church, talent shows and wherever else he could.[5] In 1955, at the age of 14, he left home under the guardianship of a minister, Eddie Bush, and went to Memphis, Tennessee, with the purpose of pursuing the ministry.[4]

At 15, Ruffin went to Hot Springs, Arkansas, with the jazz musician Phineas Newborn, Sr. There, they played at the Fifty Grand Ballroom and Casino. Billed as Little David Bush, Ruffin continued to sing at talent shows, worked with horses at a jockey club and eventually became a member of The Dixie Nightingales. He also sang with The Soul Stirrers briefly after the departure of Johnnie Taylor.[4] It was in Ruffin's travels as a teenager that he met such later popular personalities as Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Frankie Lymon, Bobby Womack, The Staple Singers, Swan Silvertones and The Dixie Hummingbirds.[4]

After some of his singing idols such as Sam Cooke and Jackie Wilson had left gospel music and gone secular, Ruffin also turned in that direction. The 16-year-old Ruffin met and came under the guardianship of Eddie Bush and his wife Dorothy Helen, who took the teenager to Detroit, Michigan, where his brother Jimmy was pursuing a career in music while simultaneously working at the Ford Motor Company.

Career

Early years

After moving to Detroit with the Bushes, Ruffin recorded his first released record with the songs "You and I" (1958) b/w "Believe Me" (1958). These songs were recorded at Vega Records and released under the name "Little David Bush", using the last name of his guardian. Ruffin would later recall how he initially recorded "a different kind of music", strongly influenced by the smoother pop and R&B of the time, when he first recorded in Detroit for Vega.[7]

In 1957, Ruffin met Berry Gordy Jr., then a songwriter with ambitions of running his own label.[4] Ruffin lived with Gordy's father, a contractor, and helped "Pops" Gordy do construction work on the building that would become Hitsville USA, the headquarters for Gordy's Tamla Records (later Motown Records) label.[4][7] Ruffin's brother Jimmy would eventually be signed to Tamla's Miracle Records label as an artist.

Ruffin also worked alongside another ambitious singer, Marvin Gaye, as an apprentice at Anna Records, a Chess-distributed label run by Gordy's sister Gwen Gordy Fuqua and his songwriting partner Billy Davis.[4][7]

Asked about Ruffin in the Detroit Free Press in 1988, Gordy Fuqua said: "He was very much a gentleman, yes ma'am and no ma'am, but the thing that really impressed me about David was that he was one of the only artists I've seen who rehearsed like he was on stage".[5] According to Ruffin, both he and Gaye would pack records for Anna Records.[citation needed]

Ruffin created music as both the vocalist and drummer in the Voice Masters, a doo-wop style combo[8] and eventually started recording at Anna Records, and recorded the song "I'm in Love" b/w "One of These Days" (1961), with the Voice Masters, a group which included future Motown producer, Lamont Dozier. Other group members included members of The Originals: Ty Hunter, CP Spencer, Hank Dixon and (Voice Masters and The Originals founder) Walter Gaines. (At one time, The Voice Masters also included another future Temptations member, Melvin Franklin, one of numerous people David would claim as a cousin).[4] Ruffin did sign to Anna Records as a solo artist, but his work in that time was unsuccessful.[8]
Ruffin eventually met an up-and-coming local group by the name of The Temptations. His older brother Jimmy went on a Motortown Revue tour with the Temptations, and he told David that they needed someone to sing tenor in their group. David showed interest in joining the group to Otis Williams whom he lived very close to in Detroit.

In January 1964, Ruffin became a member of the Temptations after founding member Elbridge "Al" Bryant was fired from the group. Ruffin's first recording session with the group was January 8, 1964. Though both David and Jimmy were considered, David was given the edge, thanks to his performance skills. These were displayed when he joined the Temptations on stage during the label's New Year's Eve party in 1963. [9]

With the Temptations (1964-1968)

Main article: The Temptations

After joining the Temptations, the bespectacled Ruffin initially sang backgrounds while the role of lead singer mostly alternated between Eddie Kendricks and Paul Williams. He did sing a few lead parts, both on stage and in the studio, during his first year with the group, but his leads on these studio tracks would not be released for over a year, as they were not considered good enough to showcase his vocals. However, Smokey Robinson, who produced and co-wrote most of the Temptations' material at this point, saw Ruffin during this period as a "sleeping giant" in the group with a unique voice that was "mellow yet gruff." [10] Robinson thought that if he could write just the 'perfect song' for Ruffin's voice, then he could have a smash hit. [10] The song was to be something that Ruffin could "belt out" yet something that was also "melodic and sweet". [10] When Robinson achieved his goal, the song, "My Girl", was recorded in November 1964 and released a month later. It became the group's first number-one single in 1965. "My Girl" subsequently became the Temptations' signature song, and elevated Ruffin to the role of lead singer and frontman.

The follow-ups to "My Girl" were also extremely successful singles, and included the Ruffin-led hits "It's Growing" (1965), "Since I Lost My Baby" (1965), "My Baby" (1965), "Ain't Too Proud to Beg" (1966), "Beauty Is Only Skin Deep" (1966), "(I Know) I'm Losing You" (1966), "All I Need" (1967), "(Loneliness Made Me Realize) It's You That I Need" (1967), "I Wish It Would Rain" (1967), and "I Could Never Love Another (After Loving You)" (1968). Ruffin also shared lead vocals on the 1967 hit single "You're My Everything" with Eddie Kendricks. The tall, 6'3", Ruffin's passionate and dramatic performances endeared him to the Temptations' audiences and fans. According to Otis Williams, Ruffin (playfully nicknamed "Ruff" by the group) was a natural comedian and a hard-working singer when he first joined the group.

Ruffin's most notable non-vocal contribution to the Temptations was the masterminding of their trademark four-headed microphone stand. [11] This enabled the other members to sing and do their dances without having to crowd around one microphone while the lead singer would sing into a separate microphone.

In June 1968, the Temptations agreed that Ruffin had finally crossed the line when he missed a June 22 Cleveland, Ohio, date with the Temptations in order to attend a performance by his new girlfriend, Barbara Gail Martin (Dean Martin's daughter). [16] Ruffin was fired on June 27, and replaced with Dennis Edwards, a former member of The Contours, who had been a friend of Ruffin and the group as a whole beforehand. [16] Though Ruffin himself personally encouraged Edwards to take his place, Ruffin began turning up unannounced at Temptations concerts during Edwards' first few dates with the group. When the group started to perform a Ruffin-era song such as "My Girl" or "Ain't Too Proud to Beg", Ruffin would suddenly walk on to the stage, take the microphone from Edwards' hands, and steal the show, embarrassing the group but entertaining the fans. [16] According to Edwards, the adulation and Ruffin's pleas convinced the other four Temptations to give Ruffin a
second chance, but when he arrived late to what was to be his return show with the group in Gaithersburg, Maryland, The Temptations decided to keep Edwards and drop considerations of rehiring Ruffin.[17][18]

In October 1968, Ruffin filed suit against Motown Records, seeking a release from the label and an accounting of his money. [14] Motown counter-sued to keep the singer from leaving the label and eventually the case was settled.[14] The settlement required Ruffin to remain with Motown to finish out his initial contract (Ruffin joined Motown as a solo artist and always had a separate contract from the other Temptations, which some felt caused a lot of the in-fighting within the group).[14]

Solo years and personal issues

Ruffin's first solo single was a song originally intended for the Temptations, "My Whole World Ended (The Moment You Left Me)". The single (from the album also entitled My Whole World Ended) was released in 1969, and reached the US Pop and R&B Top Ten. This was followed by the album Feelin' Good. A third album, titled David, was recorded in 1970–71, but was shelved by Motown and did not see commercial release until 2004. His next official release for Motown did not arrive until 1973 when David Ruffin was released.

His final Top Ten hit was 1975's "Walk Away from Love", produced by Van McCoy, which reached number nine on the Pop Charts. It was also Ruffin's only entry into the UK Charts (as a solo artist), and was a hit there as well, making it into the Top Ten (peaking at #10) in early 1976. The single sold over one million copies, and was awarded a gold disc by the R.I.A.A. in February 1976.[19]

Other notable recordings from Ruffin's solo career include "I Lost Everything I've Ever Loved" (1969); the gospel-inflected "I'm So Glad I Fell For You" (1970); "Blood Donors Needed (Give All You Can)" (1973); "Common Man" (1973) (which was sampled on the 2001 Jay-Z song "Never Change"); "No Matter Where" (1974); "Who I Am" (1975); "Statue of a Fool" (1975); and cover versions of the Jackson Five's "I Want You Back", "Rainy Night in Georgia" (popularized by Brook Benton) - both recorded for the shelved 1970 album; and Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes' "I Miss You" (1973), featuring Eddie Kendricks (later Kendrick).

In 1970 Ruffin recorded an album with his brother Jimmy, I Am My Brother's Keeper, for which they had minor hits with "When My Love Hand (Comes Tumbling Down)" and "Your Love Was Worth Waiting For".

While his solo career initially showed promise, Ruffin went into decline, reportedly in part because of his cocaine addiction and the lack of support from Motown.
After leaving Motown in 1977, Ruffin recorded for Warner Bros. Records, releasing the albums So Soon We Change (1979) and Gentleman Ruffin (1980). He later signed with RCA Records, accompanied by former Temptations colleague Eddie Kendricks, who chose to rekindle their friendship when Kendricks himself started experiencing problems with the Temptations.

In 1982, Ruffin and Eddie Kendricks re-joined the Temptations for the recording of their album Reunion and a tour to promote the album. The album included the R&B hit "Standing on the Top" with Rick James. The reunion tour was short lived, however, as Ruffin started to miss shows as a result of his cocaine addiction, leading the group to be fined thousands of dollars. Otis Williams fired Ruffin from the group for the second and final time (along with Kendricks, whose voice was weakened due to heavy smoking) by Christmas 1982.[20]

Ruffin started touring with Kendricks (who dropped the "s" from his last name at this time) as a duo act in 1985.

In 1985, longtime Temptations fans Hall & Oates teamed up with Ruffin and Kendrick to perform at the re-opening of the Apollo Theater in New York. Their performance was released as a successful live album and single. The four singers also sang a medley of Temptations hits at Live Aid on July 13, 1985. John Oates later wrote a minor hit single for Ruffin and Kendrick, but the two duos fell out, allegedly due to Daryl Hall's objections to Ruffin's heavy drug use. After being inducted in 1989 into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (along with the other Temptations) Ruffin, Kendrick and Dennis Edwards began touring and recording as "Ruffin/Kendrick/Edwards: Former Leads of The Temptations". On August 17, 2013, In Cleveland, Ohio, The Official R&B Music Hall of Fame inducted David Ruffin as a solo artist and member of The Temptations. His family was in attendance at the ceremony.

Personal life

Ruffin was married twice. His first marriage was to Sandra Barnes in 1961, with whom he had three daughters, Cheryl, Nedra and Kimberly.[22] He also had one son with his long-term girlfriend, Genna Sapia, whom he met in 1964.[23] Genna said that since she didn't know whether David was coming or going (because of the well-publicized affair with Motown colleague [and Marvin Gaye duet partner] Tammi Terrell), she named the baby David E. Sapia. Later, David changed his son's name to David Ell Ruffin, Jr. The three lived together for years, but she and David never married.[23][23][24] In 1976—two years after he and Genna split for good—Ruffin married Joy Hamilton. After his death, Sapia would add "Ruffin" to her last name in tribute to their relationship, and for continuity with David Junior.[23][25]

Ruffin is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery (Detroit, Michigan), in Section 3, Lot 243, Grave #3.

Legacy

Ruffin had many admirers among his fellow artists, especially for the emotive power he brought to every song he sang. "Nobody could sing like David Ruffin", said his close friend and colleague Martha Reeves (of Martha and the Vandellas fame). [29] His contemporary, label-mate, and long-time acquaintance Marvin Gaye was particularly impressed with the virility of Ruffin's voice. Gaye said Ruffin's work "made me remember that when a lot of women listen to music, they want to feel the power of a real man".[2]

Daryl Hall of Hall & Oates, one of Ruffin's biggest fans, said, "His voice had a certain glorious anguish that spoke to people on many emotional levels".[2] Ruffin himself said, "I don't know what kind of voice I have, I really don't...it's just about the feeling I get for the song".[6]

The raspy-voiced Rod Stewart fell in love with Ruffin's voice after he heard "I Wish It Would Rain". "It jumped out of the speakers and ravished my soul", Stewart exclaimed.[20] Stewart would later become friends with Ruffin. "His voice was so powerful – like a foghorn on the Queen Mary", Stewart told Rolling Stone magazine in 2005.[20]

The cover-art of Ruffin's last album Gentleman Ruffin was the inspiration for the art of rapper Wiz Khalifa's mixtape Kush and Orange Juice.[5]

David Ruffin was inducted into the inaugural class of the Official Rhythm & Blues Music Hall of Fame at Cleveland State University.

In popular culture[edit]
In 1998, NBC aired *The Temptations*, a four-hour television mini-series about the group's career, Ruffin was portrayed by Leon Robinson (who is usually credited as simply "Leon" as his professional name). The actor won high praise for his performance, although Ruffin's family was quite upset by the way the series portrayed him, and filed a lawsuit against the series' producers and Otis Williams, whose memoir had been the source material.\(^{[30]}\)^{[31] The case was dismissed in favor of the defendants, with Williams later claiming that he had no real control over the presentation of the material.

Grand Puba of Brand Nubian referenced the singer on the 1990 single "All for One", stating: "I hit a beat and swing a note as if my name was David Ruffin".

Rapper Machine Gun Kelly also referenced the singer on his 2013 song "See My Tears" stating:"Fought every temptation shit, I guess I'm David Ruffin huh"?

The first song on Fall Out Boy's 2005 CD *From Under the Cork Tree* was to have been titled "My Name is David Ruffin...and These are The Temptations", but for legal reasons the name was changed to "Our Lawyer Made Us Change the Name of This Song So We Wouldn't Get Sued".

Hotstylz used Ruffin's song and referred his name on their hip-hop single "Lookin' Boy".

American rap rock group Gym Class Heroes references Ruffin in the 2008 song "Like Father, Like Son (Papa's Song)" from their album *The Quilt* stating: "I never understood temptation. But I guess we both got a little David Ruffin in us".

In the British documentary film *The Fear of 13*, Common Man is sung.

**Solo discography**

**Main article: David Ruffin discography**

**Studio albums**

- 1969: *My Whole World Ended*
- 1969: *Feelin' Good*
- 1971: *David* (unissued until 2004)
- 1973: *David Ruffin*
- 1974: *Me 'N Rock 'N Roll Are Here To Stay*
- 1975: *Who I Am*
- 1976: *Everything's Coming Up Love*
- 1977: *In My Stride*
- 1979: *So Soon We Change*
- 1980: *Gentleman Ruffin*
There's something about a voice that's personal, not unlike the particular odor or shape of a given human body. Summoned through belly, hammered into form by the throat, given propulsion by bellows of lungs, teased into final form by tongue and lips, a vocal is a kind of audible kiss, a blurted confession, a soul-burp you really can't keep from issuing as you make your way through the material world. How helplessly candid! How appalling!

Contrary to anything you've heard, the ability to actually carry a tune is in no regard a disability in becoming a rock & roll singer, only a mild disadvantage. Conversely, nothing in the vocal limitations of a Lou Reed guarantees a "Pale Blue Eyes" every time out, any more than singing as crazy-clumsy as Tom Waits guarantees a "Downtown Train." Yet there's a certain time-tested sturdiness to the lowchops approach forged by touchstone figures like Bob Dylan and Jim Morrison and Jonathan Richman, one that helps define rock & roll singing.

For me, Bob Dylan and Patti Smith, just to mention two, are superb singers by any measure I could ever care about — expressivity, surprise, soul, grain, interpretive wit, angle of vision. Those two folks, a handful of others; their soul-burps are, for me, the soul-burps of the gods. The beauty of the singer's voice touches us in a place that's as personal as the place from which that voice has issued. If one of the weird things about singers is the ecstasy of surrender they inspire, another weird thing is the debunking response a singer can arouse once we've recovered our senses. It's as if they've fooled us into loving them, diddled our hard-wiring, located a vulnerability we thought we'd long ago armored over. Falling in love with a singer is like being a teenager every time it happens.
This is an excerpt from Jonathan Lethem's introduction to the Greatest Singers of All Time feature in the November 27, 2008 issue of Rolling Stone. A panel of 179 experts ranked the vocalists.

Petard Collection/Redferns

65

David Ruffin

Born
January 18th, 1941 (died June 1st, 1991)

Key Tracks
"Ain't Too Proud to Beg," "My Girl," "Walk Away From Love"

Influenced
Hall and Oates, Michael Jackson, Rod Stweart

Motown founder Berry Gordy said that any of the five Temptations could have been a lead singer, but it was David Ruffin who stood out most from the pack. In contrast to his heavenly-voiced partner, Eddie Kendricks, Ruffin sang as if every word was a plea — pain and desperation filled his lead vocals on "Ain't Too Proud to Beg," "(I Know) I'm Losing You" and "I Wish It Would Rain." "His voice had a certain glorious anguish that spoke to people on many emotional levels," says Daryl Hall, who briefly recorded and performed with Ruffin in the Eighties. "I heard in [his voice] a strength my own voice lacked," said Marvin Gaye, who added that Ruffin's work "made me remember that when a lot of women listen to music, they want to feel the power of a real man."
David Ruffin - Songs

ABOUT

David Ruffin (January 18, 1941 - June 1, 1991) was a highly acclaimed R&B/soul singer and one of Motown's all-time top stars who first became famous during the mid 1960s as the lead singer for The Temptations. Known for his distinctive gritty tenor vocals and emotive delivery as well as his flamboyant onstage presence, he took the lead in such era-defining classics as "My Girl." He then continued on as a solo artist beginning in 1969 with "My Whole World Ended (The Moment You Left Me)."

Born Davis Eli Ruffin in Whynot, Mississippi (he later had his first name changed to David), he began his music career as a child singing in his family's gospel group along with his siblings that included older brother and future soul sensation, Jimmy Ruffin. He left home in his early teens and went to Memphis, Tennessee, originally intending to join the ministry, where he participated in local talent shows and sang with The Dixie Nightingales and other gospel groups. In 1958, while still in his teens, he landed his first record deal with Vega Records, recording under the name, Little David Bush. During the early 1960s, he recorded several singles for Check Mate and the Motown subsidiary, Anna Records, both solo and with The Voice Masters.

A major career turning point came for Ruffin in late 1963 when he was invited to join The Temptations. First serving as a background vocalist, he took the helm in 1965 with the Smokey Robinson-penned "My Girl," which topped both the Pop/Rock and R&B charts and launched The Temptations to international superstardom. This smash was followed by a long string of hits featuring Ruffin's trademark lead vocals that also included " Ain't Too Proud To Beg" (1966), "Beauty Is Only Skin Deep" (1966), "(I Know) I'm Losing You" (1966), and the anguished "I Wish It Would Rain" (1968). As The Temptations' fame continued to soar during the late 1960s, Ruffin's association with the group came to an end in 1968 due to disagreements as well as his increasing cocaine abuse.

Ruffin officially had his first charting solo song in 1962 with the little known "Mr. Bus Driver - Hurry," the B-side of a single he had recorded with Check Mate which became a minor hit on the Record World (Music Vendor) charts. His solo career began in earnest in 1969 with the lovelorn ballad, "My Whole World Ended (The Moment You Left Me)," a Top 10 hit Pop/Rock hit that was followed later that year by "I've Lost Everything I've Ever Loved" and "I'm So Glad I Fell For You." In 1970, Ruffin paired up with brother Jimmy to record an album titled "I Am My Brother's Keeper" which included their R&B Top 40 cover of Ben E. King's "Stand By Me." Ruffin had another Top 10 Pop/Rock hit 1975 with "Walk Away From Love," which topped the R&B charts and later went gold. His string of hits, which continued through 1985 on both the Pop/Rock and R&B charts, also included "Heavy Love" (1976), "Everything's Coming Up Love" (1976), "Break My Heart" (1979), and "A Nite At The Apollo Live! The Way You Do The Things You Do/My Girl" (1985), the latter credited to Daryl Hall & John Oates with David Ruffin & Eddie Kendrick. He later had two additional R&B hits with Eddie Kendrick: "I Couldn't Believe It" (1987) and "One More For The Lonely Hearts Club" (1988).

Ruffin was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1989 along with The Temptations. His other awards and accolades also included being inducted into the R&B Music Hall of Fame in 2013 and being named one of the 100 Greatest Singers of All Time by Rolling Stone in 2008.

RELATED BANDS AND ARTISTS

- Jimmy Ruffin
- The Temptations
LINKS

- In a 1988 interview with *The Washington Post*, Motown hit maker Smokey Robinson reveals that he wrote "My Girl" to showcase Ruffin's unique vocals.
- Temptations co-founder Otis Williams remembers David Ruffin in a 2016 interview with freelance writer Malcolm Wyatt.
- David Ruffin and Eddie Kendricks discuss their later work with Hall & Oates and other topics in an interview with soulandfunkmusic.com.

MERCHANDISE

- David Ruffin Recordings (CDs, etc.)
- David Ruffin MP3s
- David Ruffin Vinyl

FEATURED RECORDINGS