

Patricia Neal, 84, dies

Oscar-winning actress was plagued with strokes

By The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Patricia Neal, the willowy, husky-voiced actress who won an Academy Award for 1963's "Hud" and then survived several strokes to continue acting, died on Sunday. She was 84.

Neal had lung cancer and died surrounded by her family at her home in Edgartown, Mass., on Martha's Vineyard.

"She faced her final illness as she had all of the many trials she endured: with indomitable grace, good humor and a great deal of her self-described stubbornness," her family said in a statement.

Neal was already an award-winning Broadway actress when she won her Oscar for her role as a housekeeper to the Texas father (Meryl Streep) battling his selfish, amoral son (Paul Newman).

Less than two years later, she suffered a series of strokes in 1965 at age 39. Her struggle to once again walk and talk is regarded as epic in the annals of stroke rehabilitation. She returned to the screen to earn another Oscar nomination and three Emmy nominations.

The Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center that helps people recover from strokes and spinal cord and brain injuries is named for her in Knoxville, where she grew up.

"She never forgot us after she went to Hollywood," said 85-year-old Bud Albers, who graduated with Neal from Knoxville High School in 1943, and still lives in the city.

Whenever she was in town, a bunch of her friends would always get together and have dinner, Albers said. She had wanted to be there next week for a golf tournament that benefits the center, he said.

"She was so courageous," he said of her battling back from her illnesses and losing her 7-year-old daughter to measles in 1962. "She always fought back. She was very much an inspiration."

In her 1968 autobiography, "As I Am," she wrote, "Frequently my life has been likened to a Greek tragedy, and the actress in me cannot deny that comparison."

Neal projected force that almost crackled on the screen. Her forte was drama, but she had a light touch that enabled her to do comedy well.

She had the female leads in the 1949 film version of Ayn Rand's novel "The Fountainhead," the classic 1951 science-fiction film "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and Elia Kazan's 1957 drama "A Face in the Crowd."

She made a grand return to the screen after her strokes in 1968, winning an Oscar nomination for her performance in "The Subject Was Roses."

In 1971, she played Olivia Walton in "The Homecoming, A Christmas Story," a made-

for-TV film that served as the pilot for the CBS series "The Waltons." It brought her the first of her three Emmy nominations.

"You can't give up," she said in a 1999 Associated Press interview. "You sure want to, sometimes."

In 1953, she married Roald Dahl, the British writer famed for "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "James and the Giant Peach" and other tales for children. They had five children. They divorced in 1983 after she learned he was having an affair with her best friend and he died in 1990.

Even before her illnesses, her life often was touched by misfortune. Besides her daughter's death, an infant son nearly died in 1960 when his carriage was struck by a taxi.

Neal also suffered a nervous breakdown, and had an ill-fated affair with Gary Cooper, who starred with her in "The Fountainhead."

"I lived this secret life for several years. I was so ashamed," she told The New York Times in 1964.

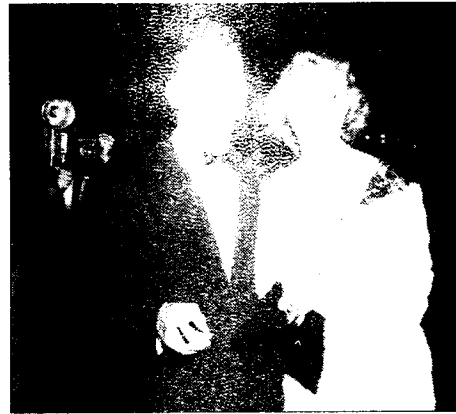
The strokes at first paralyzed her and impaired her speech. After recovering, she limped and had had vision in one eye. A 1991 biopic about her travails starred Glenda Jackson as Neal.

Her family said her dedication to the rehab center and advocacy for stroke sufferers was a great source of hope for them and their families and a "constant inspiration to our family."

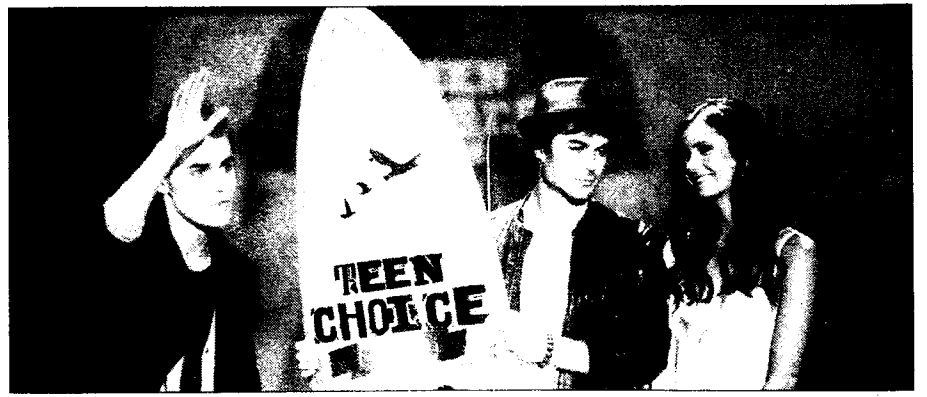
In 1999, she starred in her first feature film in 10 years in the title role in Robert Altman's "Cookie's Fortune."

She said at the time that movie offers had been scarce in recent years.

"I don't quite understand it, but nobody calls me and nobody wants me. But I love to act." Neal was born in a mining camp in Packard, Ky., the daughter of a transportation manager for the South Coal & Coke Co. After leaving Knoxville, she attended Northwestern University and then struck out for Broadway.



Neal is escorted by Kirk Douglas in 1949.



Matt Sayles/Associated Press

Members from "Vampire Diaries" accept the first award of seven at the Teen Choice Awards.

'Vampires' dominate 'Choice'

By Derrik J. Lang
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. — Maybe they should switch the name to the Vampire Choice Awards?

Bloodsuckers struck another vein at the Teen Choice Awards with "The Twilight Saga" ruling Monday's aired ceremony with 12 wins, including choice fantasy movie and villain, while "The Vampire Diaries" sucked up seven surfboard-shaped trophies.

"This is what this night is all about," said a goth-ed-out Katy Perry, "Vampires."

The goofy "California Gurls" singer hosted the show with the male stars of "Glee." Besides going goth, her costume changes included donning hippie garb next to Kevin McHale, being crowned prom queen with prom king Chris Colfer, geeking out with Mark Salling and landing a split as a cheerleader alongside Cory Monteith.

"Tonight is my chance to go back to high school," said Perry, "although this time people actually like me."

Voters continued to really like "Twilight" stars Taylor Lautner and Robert Pattinson, who were present to accept their multiple awards, seemingly handed out like candy at the free-wheeling ceremony. Of Pattinson's four wins, one was actually not related to the supernatural saga: choice drama movie actor for "Remember Me."

"It's great to win something outside of

"Twilight," said Pattinson, smiling.

The awards, which honor celebrities in television, film, music and sports, were selected by over 85 million votes cast online. Other multiple winners included "Gossip Girl," Ellen DeGeneres, "Pretty Little Liars" and "Wizards of Waverly Place" star Selena Gomez, who picked up trophies in both TV and music categories.

Kim, Khloe and Kourtney Kardashian, winners in the reality show and reality stars categories for "Keeping Up with the Kardashians," were joined by their rarely seen older sister: Cougar Kardashian, a draged-up George Lopez sporting a dress, wig and pair of heels. Teen sensation Justin Bieber wasn't in attendance at Sunday's show to retrieve his four awards though. Instead, footage was shown of Shaquille O'Neal presenting Bieber with his trophies for choice breakout artist, male artist, summer music star and pop album at his concert last month in Phoenix before Bieber crooned "U Smile."

Taylor Swift also won four awards but wasn't present to accept for choice female country artist, country song for "Fifteen," country album for "Fearless" and breakout movie actress for "Valentine's Day."

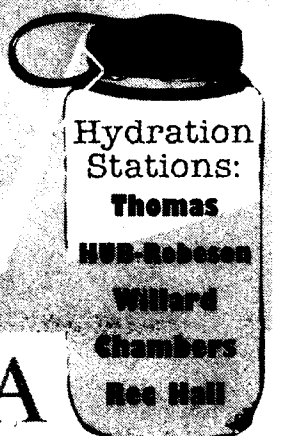
Swift, however, did appear in a taped segment in which she mounted one of her surfboard-shaped trophies in a lake. Winners on hand included choice action-adventure movie actor Channing Tatum for "G.I. Joe" and choice drama movie actress Sandra Bullock for "The Blind Side."

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