

<http://www.tmz.com/2015/05/01/bb-king-abused-hospitalized-elder-abuse-daughter/> (TMS pictures)

<http://www.bbking.com/> (official website)

I have a brother who lives in Las Vegas, NV, and yesterday before I wrote to all of you, he sent me a note about BB King, saying that he had heard from a friend with insider knowledge there that BB King was in hospice care. Some of you will recall I (and some news stories) had originally confused news reports about BB King and Ben E. King, no relation. As you see from the updated news report on his official website, he is quite sick, and the picture at TMZ is very disconcerting. BB is 89 and diabetic, and has had several close calls in the last few years, including one in Galveston, just after we saw him in a show there.

On a related, if funny note, I usually hear from about 12-15 Posse members each time I post, including several regulars. Yesterday, the number soared to over two dozen, and on a Saturday. Including the usual feedback, nine (so far) asked what I did with the confiscated joints from my ushering days at Vet's Memorial. If I wanted to be a smartass—an unlikely turn of events, I concede—I would say I have forgotten, and what was the question, man, a la Cheech and Chong. The truth is less-cinematic. We had standing orders to have a cup of water nearby, where we would put them out. I may have been the only one who ever turned them in at the end of the night, as I cannot stand smoke—of any sort, whether pot, incense, barbeque, whatever. (Holy Week was always torture for me, given all the incense we burned at the various Easter ceremonies in the Santa Fe St. Francis Cathedral.)

Inasmuch as my judicial nomination chances have long, long, long passed, I can reveal (as Damien Rice calls it, the “slow reveal”)** that I tried one puff in my whole life, and choked on it. I have not told this to many people, as I may be the only rock and roll fan who can say this, and I did not want to disqualify myself after having no street cred. I know, another legend shot??!!

When the day comes, I will have a great BB King story to share. Until then, rest well, Riley B. King, and pull through.

Michael

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“It takes a lot to breathe, to touch, to feel, The slow reveal of what another body needs,” from “It Takes a Lot to Love a Man,” *My Favourite Faded Fantasy*