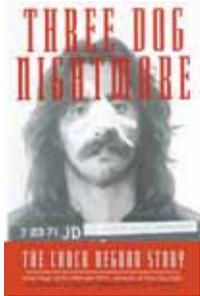




Fans will recall the signature and memorable hits from Three Dog Night such as One, Easy to be Hard and Joy to the World among many more. As one third of the lead singing trio with a career spanning nearly 50 years, Chuck has traveled a journey of being one of rock's kings to nearly becoming one of its statistics of mourning.



"I am originally from Brooklyn but eventually moved to California because I had a basketball scholarship from Allan Hancock College. I was recruited by Bill Sharman who is mostly known for his time with the Boston Celtics," said Chuck. "Anyway, one evening I went to a dance. I got onstage and sang a couple songs with some friends. I was just singing for fun."

Not long after that Columbia Records came to call and asked Chuck to come to the studio. Shortly after he attended a party in Hollywood where he met Danny Hutton. "Danny and I met up again and this time he had Cory Wells with him. He and Cory had gotten together and they decided they needed a third person for a three-part harmony and three lead singers. That's how Three Dog Night got started. There were moments where it seemed we couldn't live without each other. It was a time that was very special and magical."

"I feel grateful that I have this opportunity to still sing these songs. I am glad I have something left to give in

spite of all the damage I heaped upon myself. I feel blessed to be doing this at age 75. I will never be the way I was but I am glad for what I am able to give," said Chuck.



Life was not always kind to Chuck Negron. He admits that had come from his own doing. Eventually, he turned to heroin, which in turn nearly ended his life. "The first time I went through rehab was in 1985. I saw it as an opportunity to change my life but when I got out of rehab the call to get high again was there and I didn't put into practice what I had learned or should I say I didn't want to. I spent thirteen years in and out of 37 rehab facilities. Rehabs became my safe haven from being homeless. The 37th place I was at was called Cri-Help and that was for hard core heroin addicts. Cri-Help had contracts with the prison system so if people were being paroled who were drug addicts they went there. You had to quit your habit cold turkey. There was no such thing as detox," explains Chuck. "I prayed to God to let me die or at least have one minute of relief from this sickness and relentless obsession. Then I fell asleep when I thought I would never sleep and when I woke up the next morning, it was over. The obsession I had felt was gone. I knew that God had intervened. I threw myself in the program and it changed my life." Chuck is celebrating 26 years of sobriety.

He shares numerous experiences in his autobiography, Three Dog Nightmare with eleven new chapters and released on March 13. This will be the final edition. "The book is used in some rehab facilities, including Cri-Help," said Chuck. The first edition of the book was released in 1999. "I worked with Chris Blatchford who worked as an investigative reporter for FOX News. He encouraged me to write the book and share my story."

As Chuck got back to his music career, he noticed over time he would be out of breath when he came offstage. "My breathing was very labored but I didn't worry about it because I knew I would recover. I wasn't scared. I was too dumb I guess." (laughs) My girlfriend started taking oxygen readings after my shows and my numbers were low. Low enough where I could have had a heart attack or brain damage. We went to see a specialist and he said I would need to wear an oxygen cannula. Entertainers are supposed to make people relax, have fun and not remind them of life trag-

edies or illness. That's the way I felt," explains Chuck.

"My girlfriend and manager, Ami Albea looked into the matter further. She found a company called, Oxy-View. They design the glasses where the oxygen cannula is hooked up to the back rims of the glasses with two small hoses that fit in your nose. It saved my career," said Chuck.

Chuck does as many as 70 shows per year. He does solo work as well as travels with The Happy Together tour, which will start in June. "I love the creative process. The act of artistic endeavors is the reward. You do what you love and hope the magic happens."

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