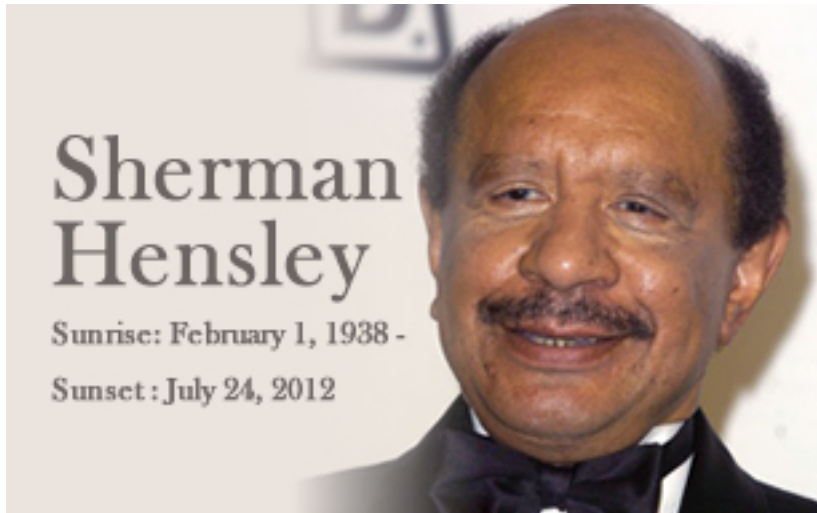


**Sherman Hemsley, known for his starring role on "The Jeffersons," has died at age 74.**

Written by Forward Time Staff  
Tuesday, 24 July 2012 15:31

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Although the cause of Hemsley's death is unclear, TMZ reports that [the actor passed away at his El Paso, Texas, home](#).

Hemsley made a name for himself as George Jefferson, carrying the iconic sitcom for a decade and [earning a 1984 Emmy nomination for his work](#) as lead actor in a comedy series. The actor went on to appear on a handful of other classic television shows including "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" and "The Hughleys." [He also starred as Deacon Ernest Frye](#) on the NBC series "Amen" for several years.

[The Philadelphia born and raised sitcom actor](#) was also an accomplished singer, recording the 1989 single "Ain't That a Kick in the Head" and releasing his R&B album, "Dance," in 1992.

Before becoming a household name, [Hemsley served in the Air Force for four years](#) -- dropping out of high school to do so -- before going on to work for the post office for eight years.

Hemsley had no wife or kids.

[Click over to TMZ](#) for more details.

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UPDATE: [Hemsley was reportedly found dead](#) by his nurse.