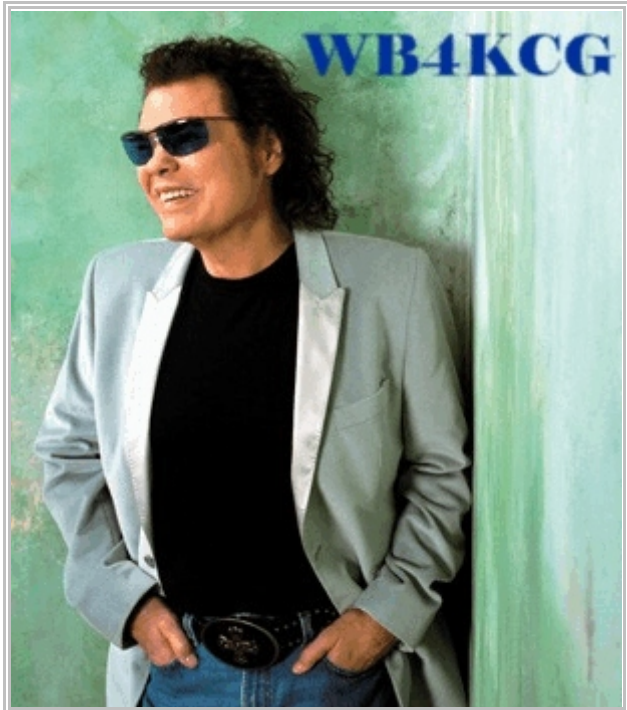


Ronnie Milsap *WB4KCG* We've heard a lot about this entertainer over the years and all of what has been written is true. This is a wonderful talent!



Awards include 6 Grammy's - 8 Country Music Awards, 3 ACM Awards and 4 Cashbox Awards. He has had an astounding 40 #1 Hits and sold over 23 million records to date.

Milsap was born into dire poverty in the Appalachian town of Robbinsville, North Carolina. His mother viewed her newborn's blindness as punishment from God. He was given to this grandmother to raise.

At age six, he was sent to the Governor Moorehead State School for the Blind in Raleigh and the young boy faced barbaric disciplinary treatment all through his grade school and high school years.

All along the sightless child took refuge in music and the radio. Moorehead put him through strict classical music training, a program that was heightened after the young boy early on showed the innate talent of a prodigy. At the same time, he obsessively listened to the radio especially the late night programs of country music, gospel and rhythm n blues. (Editor wondering if Ronnie listened to Big Hugh and John R over WLAC in the 60's?)

By age 29, Ronnie released his first single on Princess Records. It was not received well, by 1965 things began to break having a top five hit on Billboard soul chart. He went on to record R&B styled songs in Houston and Memphis for a variety of labels, including Warner Bros Reprise in 1971 and 72.

Even then, the talent was obvious, it just wasn't getting heard. The turning point came when Milsap moved from Memphis to Nashville in December of 72, to take a regular gig at King of the Road Hotel, at the time a top music industry hangout. He became friends with music publisher, Tom Collins, who would work on Milsap's initial Nashville demo recordings as well as produce his early hit albums. He also hooked up with heavyweight artist manager Jack Johnson, who also worked with Charley Pride. In April 1973, the blind singer began a long lasting association with RCA Records. Milsap's 40 hits stand as a testament to his success and staying power as a country artist; only the late Conway Twitty scored more top country hits and his included many duets with Loretta Lynn. Partially scripted from Ronnie Milsap.Com