

## Jefferson Starship Guitarist Mark "Slick" Aguilar Waits for Liver Transplant

Mark "Slick" Aguilar has been the lead guitarist in Jefferson Starship since 1992 and he is only the third person to hold that position in the 40-year history of both Jefferson Airplane and Jefferson Starship. This year marks 28 years Slick has played with Paul Kantner, Marty Balin, and company since he started with them in 1984. Before 1984, he was lead guitarist with David Crosby and before that, with KC & the Sunshine Band. His melodic and tasteful guitar playing has soared the music of Jefferson Airplane & Jefferson Starship longer than the Airplane's legendary Jorma Kaukonen and Starship's Craig Chaquico combined.

Last fall, Slick was diagnosed with Hepatitis C. Due to complications of this disease, his liver is not functioning properly. Doctors have given him a 50/50 chance of survival in the next two years if he does not receive a liver transplant.

This news has forced Slick to step back from doing what he loves, which is playing music, and put his effort, attention and ambition towards surviving. "I have been in this business for 35 years. I am now unable to tour with Jefferson Starship. I had been hospitalized for ten days while they were on tour. If I had gone on tour with them, it probably would have killed me. The doctors have me on several different meds and what that is basically doing is keeping me alive until I can get a liver transplant. I have spent a lot of time planning and being evaluated so when a liver becomes available, I will be ready."



Time is significant for Slick, his family and friends. "It's going to be a pretty heavy duty operation and the recovery could take 9 months to a year, plus someone has to be with me 24/7," he said.

Continuing to speak openly, Slick shares his thoughts for seeking help in the form of donations so this will be possible. "I do have insurance but it will not be enough to cover all of the expenses. I am a working musician and right now because of my health, I'm not working at all. Being a musician is a great job and I love what I do but not all of us are paid like Paul McCartney. It's a decent living but not enough to cover something as big as a liver transplant. Donations in any amount are going to be helpful. I've never had to do anything like this

before but with the way the situation is, I have no other source of income." It should also be noted that Slick is not paid any type of royalties from the bands or individual artists he plays with. He receives straight pay at a flat rate for doing a gig and that is how he earns his pay. As if facing one's own mortality, suffering from a debilitating illness and losing the job you love was not overwhelming enough, Slick is now faces a monumental amount of medical and day to day living expenses, with no source of income. He may also have to relocate to another state to receive the transplant.

Slick talks to David Crosby every few days. David had a liver transplant several years ago and provides friendship and support. "He's

my coach, because he knows what I am going through," said Slick.

David Crosby and some of Slick's other famous friends jumped onboard to perform a benefit concert at the Great American Music Hall in San Francisco on February 24, 2013. 100% of the proceeds from the ticket sales and merchandise went directly towards Slick's ongoing medical and day-to-day living expenses.

Besides David Crosby, Jefferson Airplane/Starship singer Marty Balin, Country Joe McDonald and Big Brother and the Holding Company were all scheduled to play.

Other fundraising efforts are also in the works. Hofner Guitars has generously donated a HA-GA04 acoustic guitar which was autographed by the stars of the benefit and raffled after the show.

A second guitar, a Fender Squire Bullet was donated by the San Francisco Guitar Center store. It was also autographed by the stars of Slick's benefit and auctioned online to the highest bidder.

For more information or to donate, visit Slick's website: [slickaguilar.com/](http://slickaguilar.com/)

Get well, Slick!



The Big Chill, viewed from the water, on a beautiful Key Largo afternoon!

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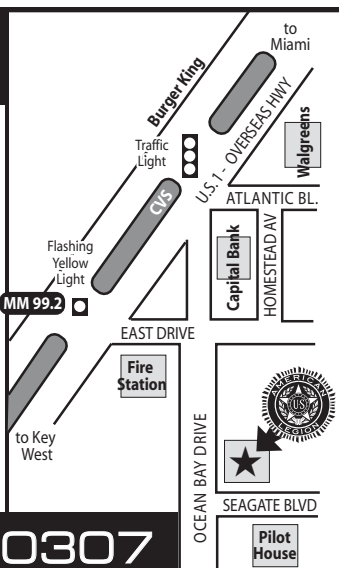
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## Sovia-Crandon New Development Director for VNA/Hospice

Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of the Florida Keys is pleased to welcome Kim Sovia-Crandon as the new Development Director. Kim brings over 25 years of leadership experience, most recently as Executive Director and Chief



Operating Officer for the Good Health Clinic in Tavernier and as the Florida Keys Congressional Aide to U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen for the past 6 years. "We are fortunate to have Kim join our team at this exciting juncture in our history, as we move forward to ensure we remain the dominant provider of home health, hospice and palliative care in the Florida Keys," said Jody Gross, President/CEO of VNA/Hospice.

"Unlike other providers, we are a charitable organization that covers the entire County. Kim will facilitate the development of new

funding sources that will help to fulfill our mission, which includes providing for all who need care, to include the indigent and working poor." Kim's other professional accomplishments include WCTH/Thunder Country station manager and regional sales coordinator for Clear Channel Communi-

cations South Miami Dade/Florida Keys market group; President and CEO of the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce; Executive Director of the Deering Estate Foundation; Vice President, Marketing and Public Relations for Homestead Air Force Base Federal Credit Union; and Conference Center Liaison for the Dept. of Defense at Homestead Air Force Base.

Kim resides in Key Largo and will be located at VNA/Hospice's Tavernier office.

For more information call 305-294-8812 or 305-852-7887 or visit [www.VNAHospiceKeys.org](http://www.VNAHospiceKeys.org).