

Obama, Gates, Zuckerberg mourn loss of Steve Jobs

By Mike Snider, USA TODAY

Political leaders to luminaries from across the creative and tech and game worlds mourned the loss of Apple co-founder [Steve Jobs](#) online and, even more, on Twitter.



By Moshe Brakha, AP. Groundbreaking: Apple CEO Steve Jobs with an iMac in 1998, the year that the iMac and the PowerBook 3G were announced.

In fact, "#RIP Steve Jobs" quickly became the top-trending topic on Twitter, followed by "#ThankYouSteve" and "#iSad."

- **President Obama:** By building one of the planet's most successful companies from his garage, he exemplified the spirit of American ingenuity. By making computers personal and putting the Internet in our pockets, he made the information revolution not only accessible, but intuitive and fun. And by turning his talents to storytelling, he has brought joy to millions of children and grownups alike.
- **Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg (via Facebook):** Steve, thank you for being a mentor and a friend. Thanks for showing that what you build can change the world. I will miss you.
- **Microsoft co-founder and longtime rival Bill Gates:** "Melinda (Gates' wife) and I extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends, and to everyone Steve has touched through his work. Steve and I first met nearly 30 years ago and have been colleagues, competitors and friends over the course of more than half our lives. The world rarely sees someone who has had the profound impact Steve has had, the effects of which will be felt for many generations to come. For those of us lucky enough to get to work with him, it's been an insanely great honor. I will miss Steve immensely."
- **Robert Iger, CEO of Walt Disney,** which bought Jobs' Pixar animation studio in 2006 for \$7.4 billion in stock, making Jobs Disney's largest individual shareholder:

"Steve Jobs was a great friend as well as a trusted adviser. His legacy will extend far beyond the products he created or the businesses he built. It will be the millions of people he inspired, the lives he changed, and the culture he defined. Steve was such an 'original,' with a thoroughly creative, imaginative mind that defined an era. Despite all he accomplished, it feels like he was just getting started. With his passing

the world has lost a rare original, Disney has lost a member of our family, and I have lost a great friend. Our thoughts and prayers."

- **Twitter CEO Dick Costolo:** "Once in a rare while, somebody comes along who doesn't just raise the bar, they create an entirely new standard of measurement."
- **Larry Page, CEO of Google:** "I am very, very sad to hear the news about Steve. He was a great man with incredible achievements and amazing brilliance. He always seemed to be able to say in very few words what you actually should have been thinking before you thought it. His focus on the user experience above all else has always been an inspiration to me. He was very kind to reach out to me as I became CEO of Google and spend time offering his advice and knowledge even though he was not at all well. My thoughts and Google's are with his family and the whole Apple family."
- **Eric Schmidt, Google's executive chairman, in a statement:** "Steve defined a generation of style and technology that's unlikely to be matched again. Steve was so charismatically brilliant that he inspired people to do the impossible, and he will be remembered as the greatest computer innovator in history."
- **Former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger:** "Steve lived the California dream every day of his life, and he changed the world and inspired all of us."
- **Singer Josh Groban:** "Such a sad day, I can trace my apple memories to the IIC when I was a kid. RIP."
- **Actress Martha Plimpton (*Raising Hope*):** "Rest in peace, Steve Jobs. Kinda can't believe he's gone. Carrying a little part of him in my pocket every day."
- **Rocker Sebastian Bach (ex-Skid Row):** "Thanks for allowing me to put my whole CD collection in my pocket."
- **New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg:** "America lost a genius who will be remembered with Edison and Einstein, and whose ideas will shape the world for generations to come. ... Again and again over the last four decades, Steve Jobs saw the future and brought it to life long before most people could even see the horizon."
- **Julian Lennon, son of John Lennon (via Facebook):** R.I.P. (and then this quote from Jobs) Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do....
- **Salesforce.com CEO Marc Benioff (via Twitter):** I am really sad It's such a terrible loss For the whole world I will never forget him He did so much for me.
- **Noted hacker Kevin Mitnick:** Thank you for changing the world in an incredible way.

- **Irrational Games' Ken Levine (*BioShock*):** Steve Jobs. A great, great man. There's a hole in every geek's heart tonight. ... Haven't been heartbroken by the death of a celebrity since John Lennon.
- **Sledgehammer Games' Michael Condrey (*Dead Space* and *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3*):** Steve Jobs RIP. A true modern day pioneer.
- **Epic Games' Cliff Bleszinski (*Gears of War*):** RIP Steve Jobs. :(
- **DC Comics' co-publisher Jim Lee:** hell no :(((
- **Jamil Moledina, former executive director of the Game Developers Conference:** A gracious, talented man. apple.com
- **ChAIR Entertainment's Donald Mustard (*iPhone game Infinity Blade*):** RIP Steve. Thank you for everything.
- **Neil Young, founder of mobile game studio Ngmoco:** "It's a very sad day. Steve Jobs fought a war with mediocrity and won. He's been an inspiration to entrepreneurs and creators everywhere."
- **Recording Industry Association of America CEO Cary Sherman:** "Steve was a larger-than-life personality — passionate about music and one of its biggest fans and advocates. He was a true visionary who forever transformed how fans access and enjoy music. With the introduction of the iTunes software and other platforms, Steve and Apple made it once again easy and accepted to pay for music."
- **Tim Bajarin, president of tech analysis firm Creative Strategies, who followed Jobs for three decades:** Jobs "has a legacy that will go on forever. Even in his lows he never took his eye off of the vision of creating products that were stylish and simple to use."
- **G.S. Choi, chief executive of Samsung Electronics, a fierce competitor to Apple in the Asia smartphone market:** Jobs introduced "numerous revolutionary changes to the information technology industry" and "his innovative spirit and remarkable accomplishments will forever be remembered by people around the world."
- **Foxconn Technology Group, which makes Apple iPads and iPhones:** "We are truly saddened by the passing of Steve Jobs, an industry visionary, a true partner to our company, and a great friend. Our condolences are extended to his family and to everyone at Apple as they mourn this loss."

Steve had an immeasurable and positive impact on the lives of people around the world and the global electronics industry is all the better for the many contributions he made to ensuring that technology is understandable, beautiful, and, most importantly, accessible to people from all walks of life."

- **Michael Clendenin, managing director of RedTech Advisors in Shanghai, who covers the technology industry:** "Steve Jobs' DNA is built into Apple, but Apple is not just Steve Jobs. Since Jobs got sick, we've seen the emergence of key lieutenants that had until recently remained in the shadows but were nonetheless an integral part of the company's success. From here on out, we have to see whether these folks are loyal to Apple or were simply the king's men. Jobs was loyal to Apple, even more so the

consumer, and I'd like to think that his inner circle will remain driven by the challenge that technology should be an invisible force that enables great things for the average consumer. That work is not yet finished.

In terms of Asia, nothing changes. Apple CEO Tim Cook recognizes the incredible importance of the Asian manufacturing machine and is tuned into the rise of a mega middle class that will eventually be the biggest consumer of Apple products. Asians recognize and value Apple products, they respected and admired Steve Jobs as an entrepreneur and iconic figure and they'll keep lining up at those ever-expanding Apple stores to pay homage at the cash register."

- **David Wolf, CEO of Wolf Group Asia, an influential management consulting firm in Beijing that's often quoted on the tech industry:** "I did not know Steve, but as an Apple watcher and user for a quarter century I can say this: As the godfather and champion of the first graphical and only truly multilingual operating system, Steve Jobs gave every Asian a personal computer they could use easily in their own language. Not only did that help close the digital divide in Asia, it made room in a globalized world for all languages and cultures."

- **Apple competitor Nokia CEO Stephen Elop:** "The world lost a true visionary today. Steve's passion for simplicity and elegance leaves us all a legacy that will endure for generations. Today, my thoughts, and those of everyone at Nokia are with the friends and family that he leaves behind."

- **Sun Microsystems co-founder Scott McNealy:** (Jobs) was "the greatest innovator and entrepreneur we've had, certainly in our lifetime at least in the consumer (space)."