

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



Pat Williams

May 3, 1940–July 17, 2024

"Dream big dreams and pursue those dreams with courage, optimism and perseverance. Commit yourself to making the world a better place. When it comes to the end, I want to be known as a difference maker."

—Pat Williams

"The Promise"

I never said that I would give you silver or gold
Or that you would never feel the fire or shiver in the cold
But I did say you'd never walk through this world alone
And I did say don't make this world your home

I never said that fear wouldn't find you in the night
Or that loneliness was something you'd never have to fight
But I did say I'd be right there by your side
And I did say I'll always help you fight

'Cause you know I made a promise
That I intend to keep
My grace will be sufficient
In every time of need
My love will be the anchor
That you can hold onto
This is the promise
This is the promise I've made to you

I never said that friends would never turn their backs on you
Or that the world around you wouldn't see you as a fool
But I did say like Me, you'll surely be despised
And I did say My ways confound the wise

I didn't say you'd never taste the bitter kiss of death
Or have to walk through chilly Jordan
To enter into rest but I did say I'd be waiting
Right on the other side
And I did say I'll dry every tear you cry

'Cause you know I made a promise
That I've prepared a place
And some day sooner than you think
You'll see Me face to face
And you'll sing with the angels
And a countless multitude
This is the promise
This is the promise I've made to you

So just keep on walkin' don't turn to the left or right
And in the midst of darkness let this be your light
That hell can't separate us and you're gonna make it through
This is the promise
This is the promise I've made to you

CELEBRATION SERVICE

Pat Williams

First Orlando

July 26, 2024 · 3PM · Worship Center



Special Song
“Faithful One”

Welcome · Scripture Reading · Prayer
Dr. David Uth, Senior Pastor

Remembering Pat by Family Members

Orlando Magic Video Tribute

Remembering Pat by Friends

Song
“Because He Lives”

Message of Hope
Dr. Jim Henry, Pastor Emeritus

Song
“The Promise”

Closing Prayer

Closing Song
“I Thank God”

Officiating—Dr. David Uth, Senior Pastor & Dr. Jim Henry, Pastor Emeritus
Music—First Orlando Worship Team

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions
may be made to The First Academy Sports
Programs. Scan the QR code to donate



—Please Silence Cell Phones—

Pat Williams

Pat Williams is a basketball Hall-of-Famer, best known for co-founding the NBA's Orlando Magic. He also served as general manager for the Philadelphia 76ers, Chicago Bulls, Atlanta Hawks and Orlando Magic, including the legendary 1983 World Champion 76ers, and helped lead the Orlando Magic to the NBA finals in 1995 and 2009.

In 1996, Pat was named as one of the 50 most influential people in NBA history. In 2012, Pat received the John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award from the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

As one of America's top motivational speakers, he addressed thousands of executives in organizations ranging from Fortune 500 companies and national associations to universities and nonprofits. Pat is also the author of over 100 books.

Pat was an integral part of NBA history, including bringing the NBA to Orlando. He won four NBA draft lotteries, including back-to-back winners in '92 and '93. He drafted Shaquille O'Neal, Charles Barkley, Maurice Cheeks, Andrew Toney and Darryl Dawkins. He traded "Pistol Pete" Maravich, orchestrated bringing Julius Erving from the ABA to the NBA, and traded for Moses Malone, Penny Hardaway, and Joe "Jellybean" Bryant (Kobe's father). He signed Billy Cunningham, Chuck Daly, and Matt Guokas to their first professional coaching contracts. Nineteen of his former players have become NBA head coaches, nine have become college head coaches, and seven have become NBA assistant coaches.

Pat served for several years in the United States Army Reserve, spent seven years in the Philadelphia Phillies organization—two as a minor league catcher and five in the front office—and also spent three years in the Minnesota Twins organization.

Pat was a devoted father to 19 children, including 14 adopted from four nations. For one year, 16 of his children were all teenagers at the same time. Pat was "Poppers" to 21 grandchildren and counting, and the Williams family story has been featured in Sports Illustrated, Readers Digest, Good Housekeeping, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and Focus on the Family as well as all of the major network and cable television news channels.

In February of 2011, Pat was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma. It came as no surprise to anyone that he attacked his recovery with the same veracious energy he put into everything he did, and his recovery was nothing short of miraculous. While Multiple Myeloma is incurable, the goal is to get the cancer into remission, and his personal slogan became "The Mission is Remission". But Pat didn't just get into remission, he lived 13 more extraordinary years, and doctors pronounced they could not find any trace of the cancer in his blood.

Pat was a very active member at First Baptist Church of Orlando where the "Pat Williams Leadership Library" is housed. He hosted three weekly radio shows, completed 58 marathons, climbed Mt. Rainier and was a Civil War buff and serious baseball fan. Most recently, he led the effort to bring Major League Baseball to Orlando.

Pat was born in Philadelphia and raised in Wilmington, Delaware as the only boy in a family of sisters. He earned his bachelor's degree at Wake Forest University, and his master's degree at Indiana University. He is a member of the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame after catching for the Deacon baseball team, including the 1962 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship team. He is also a member of nine other hall of fames around the country, including the Florida, Utah, Massachusetts and Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fames.

Pat never met a stranger, and anyone lucky enough to spend time with him left feeling uplifted and encouraged. He will forever be etched into the heart of Orlando, and he showed everyone what it meant to love the way Jesus does. With his family by his side, the Lord rewarded his hard work as he heard the words "Well Done." In true Pat fashion, we can see him standing at the gates of heaven ready to welcome everyone in with a handshake and an encouraging word . . . just like he did at Magic games.