



Patrick "Pat" Foley

March 17, 1954 - January 27, 2025

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Patrick "Pat" Foley, a beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, and irreplaceable force in the music world. Pat passed away peacefully on January 27, 2025, surrounded by his family.

Pat is survived by his wife, Eloise Lynch Foley, and their two daughters, Rachael and Alanna. He is also deeply missed by his brothers Brian and James, his sister Maria, his sister-in-law Linda Riggs Foley, and his brother-in-law Michael Lazor, as well as his nieces and nephews: Jacqueline, James, Daniel, and Julia.

Pat was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, in 1954. The son of British immigrants—his father a musician and his mother a singer in local musicals—Pat grew up surrounded by music. As the Motown era exploded onto the scene, he developed a deep love for early American rock and roll, as well as British imports like The Beatles and The Rolling Stones, which would shape his lifelong devotion to the music industry and its artists.

A true behind-the-scenes legend, Pat shaped the sounds of generations through his work with drums, guitars, amplifiers, and production.

In the early 1980s, Pat became known for his skill in customizing drum kits for top musicians such as Bobby Blotzer, Gregg Bissonette, Michael Baird, Myron

Grombacher, and Jonathan “Sugarfoot” Moffett—most notably for Moffett’s kit on Michael Jackson’s Victory tour—ensuring the instruments reflected both the style and sound of the artists who played them.

Later, as part of The Tuffway Industries Team with partner Chris Silagy, he recorded with bands such as The Redskins, The Untouchables, and 20/20 during the mid-1980s, collaborating across two continents.

Pat went on to build and operate a studio on the British island of Montserrat, where he recorded local bands and artists from neighboring islands. It was there he met his wife, a local singer and recording artist. Pat’s ability to recognize talent and bring out the best in every artist he worked with was not just another skill, it was the heart of his work as a producer.

His passion for craftsmanship later led him into the world of guitars. For over two decades at Gibson, Pat forged relationships with some of the greatest musicians of all time, overseeing the creation of iconic signature guitar models for legends such as Jimmy Page, Slash, Paul McCartney, Billy Gibbons, Pete Townshend, Tony Iommi, Eric Clapton, Joe Perry, Robby Krieger, Joe Walsh, Johnny Winter, Warren Haynes, Joe Bonamassa, and countless others.

Beyond guitars, Pat’s expertise extended to amplifiers, most recently at Orange Amps, where he spent nearly a decade working closely with artists like Geddy Lee, Stevie Wonder, Glenn Hughes, Billy Strings, Marcus King, Tim Montana, Brent Hinds, and Jim Root, all of whom cherished both his knowledge and friendship.

To those who knew him, Pat was more than just an industry veteran, he was a mentor, a storyteller, a true friend. He had an uncanny ability to make everyone in the room feel like they were part of something bigger. He lived for late-night jam sessions, backstage conversations, and the countless stories that only a life spent in music could create. His keen ear and deep

understanding of musicians' needs made him a trusted figure in the industry. Pat didn't just make deals; he built lifelong relationships.

Though he has passed, Pat Foley's rhythm will never fade. His legacy lives on in every beat, every note, and every song that still plays and stirs the soul.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to two of his favorite charities: Mercy Ships and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Tribute Wall

JC

“Over the past 20 years, Pat and Eloise became close friends—one of those rare couples with whom pretenses were left at the door and we could simply be ourselves. A true gift.

Pat was complex, smart, intellectually curious, kind, well-read, a world traveler, a good listener, a gifted storyteller, and a man full of surprises. We thought we had a grasp of his many storied careers, but only a year or so ago, while flipping through one of their many books, I discovered an article with a photo of Pat beside a drum kit—revealing yet another layer of his talents.

He and Tom could talk music for hours.

He and I would dive into conversations about books, movies, social justice, and the human condition.

Pat often spoke of his daughters with great love and pride. He was deeply proud of them.

His time in Montserrat clearly left an imprint on his heart—you could feel how much he loved the island whenever he spoke of it.

During our visits to Nashville, we often stayed with Pat and Eloise. One of our dearest memories: every evening around 9 p.m., Pat would call out a single word—“Vera”—summoning us downstairs to watch the British mystery series. Wrapped in throws, the four of us would settle in and enjoy it together. It was a small tradition, but it meant so much.

We miss him deeply. We hope his transition into the vast consciousness of the creator is filled with peace and love.

Our hearts go out to Eloise, Rachael, Alanna, and all of Pat’s family and friends.

Jc & Tom

JC - May 14, 2025 at 02:58 PM