



## Patrick W. O'Brien

January 28, 1941 - February 3, 2016

Patrick William O'Brien Age 75, died peacefully at home February 3, 2016. He was born January 28, 1941 in Seattle, WA to Edna Mae and William O'Brien. Patrick graduated from Seattle Prep and Seattle University and received a Master's Degree in Education from Pacific Lutheran University. He began his career in education with the Bethel School District in 1965, where he was a teacher, principal and district administrator. Upon retirement from Bethel, Pat worked for the Steilacoom School District as interim principal in various schools and on many building projects. He was an active member of WASA and Pierce County Principals' Association. He was also a member of Tacoma Country and Golf Club. Patrick loved fishing, pheasant hunting, time spent in Hawaii and most of all his family and friends. Pat is survived by his wife of 50 years Janet, son Michael P. O'Brien (Erin) of Keller, TX, daughter Trisha Maygra (Dan) of Sumner, WA, grandchildren Justine and Von Maygra and Connor, Kaitlyn and Logan O'Brien. At Pat's request there is no formal funeral service, however a Celebration of Life will be held March 13 at 2:00 P.M. at the Tacoma Country and Golf Club. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to your favorite charity .



# Comments

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“ Pat was a wonderful Tillicumite: someone who might have lived on the other side of the fence, but you'd never know it to run into him in the street. He was a good friend of my dad (Glenn Anderson) as well as both of my brothers (David and Alan) and he will be deeply missed.

Alice V. (Anderson) Nelson

**Alice V. Nelson** - February 16, 2016 at 03:24 PM

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## “ Pat O’Brien - ‘Keep principle the principal thing’

By David Anderson

Tillicum lost another of its leaders in the recent death of Pat O’Brien.

Perhaps my favorite story of those we swapped by phone over the years, and again in the waning days at his bedside, was the opportunity he had to set aside the standard requirements that had been imposed by the school in order to allow a star athlete to play. Pat O’Brien refused.

It was the late-Stephen Covey, American educator, author, businessman and keynote speaker whose most popular book “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” described in affect the fiber – more like fine steel – comprising Pat O’Brien’s wherewithal, not to mention spine.

Covey’s “the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing” – one of Covey’s “10 Quotes That Can Change Your Life” - was O’Brien’s ‘keep principle principal,’ an inviolable rule that seemed to rule his life.

It was Pat O’Brien who led the way in securing the services of an attorney to assist the relatively poor Tillicum community in a protracted legal battle opposing – at the same time – the ultimately successful attempt by both the City of Lakewood and the Washington National Guard at Camp Murray to relocate the latter’s main entry gate thus rerouting employee traffic through the heart of the residential neighborhood.

Of the upwards of \$20,000 the community was out-of-pocket to have its day in court, my guess is a good portion came from Pat O’Brien.

It was Pat O’Brien – along now with many others that have since followed his lead – that understood the importance of local Tillicum youth playing baseball to which purpose he contributed financially.

It was Pat O’Brien who would call – even in those last days – and ask what was happening in his community and, in particular, how things were with my own immediately family.

“Teamwork,” reads the notecards on my desk: “together we achieve more.”

A community always – always – if it’s to be revitalized, with the best revitalization occurring from the inside out, with those who actually live in the community rolling up their sleeves or contributing from their financial resources – depends on principled leaders like Pat O’Brien.



