



Patrick Whelan

September 19, 1943 - April 12, 2026

Patrick F. Whelan, 82, passed away on April 12th, 2026, leaving behind a family who loved him deeply and a life story that took him from the countryside of Ireland to the life he built in Texas. Patrick was born on September 19, 1943, in Bawnogue, near Rathdangan, County Wicklow, Ireland, to his late parents Peter and Margaret (née Kelly) Whelan. He grew up in the Irish countryside, walking two miles each way to Rathcoyle National School, often in the harshest weather. A bright and determined student, he earned a Wicklow County Council scholarship that allowed him to continue his education at Patrician College in Ballyfin, where he graduated with Leaving Certificate Honours in 1963. During his time there, he played hurling and proudly represented the college on its teams.

Patrick began his career with Cement Roadstone Holdings before joining Aer Lingus in 1964, where he was based in Dublin. His career in the airline and travel industry took him across the world, including to Chicago's O'Hare Airport. When that office closed, he continued in the travel industry in Boston before returning to Chicago to work with China Airlines. Eventually, his career brought him to Houston, Texas, where he would remain until his retirement in 2010. Though he built a life abroad, Patrick never lost his deep connection to home. He maintained close ties with his family in Ireland and was known for his daily phone calls, often filled with lively conversations about farming, weather, and life back home. Those calls, especially with his brothers, sister and family, will be deeply missed.

In 1979, Patrick surprised his family with the news that he would be marrying Patricia M. Cuff. What followed was a marriage just one month shy of 47 years. Together, they created a home that was always open, especially to visiting family from Ireland, where people felt comfortable and welcome. Many knew them fondly as “Mr. Pat and Mrs. Pat,” or simply “the Pats.” Patrick was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was preceded in death by his parents, Peter and Margaret Whelan, and his brothers, Martin Whelan and Thomas Whelan. He is survived by his beloved wife, Patricia M. Whelan; his daughter Maura LePori and her husband Brian, and grandchildren Edward, Henry, and Emma; and his daughter Anne Hamilton and her husband Hunter, and grandchildren Helen, Clark, Mark, and George Patrick. He is also survived by his brothers Jim, Brendan, Peadar, and Larry, and his sister Brigid, along with many nieces and nephews. His grandchildren, who lovingly called him “Grand,” were a source of great pride and joy in his life.

Patrick will be remembered for his steady presence, his sharp mind, his quiet humor, and the deep love he had for his family both near and far. His Catholic faith was a constant in his life, and he was known for never missing Sunday Mass. From the fields of Wicklow to the home he built in America, his life was one of dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to his family. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew and loved him.

A funeral Mass will be held on May 5th, 2026, at 2:00 PM at St. Faustina Catholic Church in Fulshear, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to The Graeme McDaniel Foundation, a cause close to Patrick’s heart. For many years, he participated in Graeme’s Run in support of his grandson Mark and other children with congenital heart defects.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Many happy memories of Pat during our years at Aer Lingus and on the golf course. " Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis". May his dear soul be at God's right hand. RIP, Pat. JimBurke*

Jim Burke - April 24 at 12:13 PM