

Sail on Jimmy

I want to pay tribute to Jimmy Buffett and say thank you for so much joy and meaning. My wife describes Jimmy as my musical soul mate. It's been a month since his passing, and I still feel a sense of loss. I think that is because his music has been part of my life for so many years.

I have been a fan since the early eighties. My wife first brought his music to my attention: **You Had to Be There** and **Coconut Telegraph**. I didn't start going to concerts until the early 90's, mostly with my son. We have been to more than 80 concerts in those thirty years. I went to a concert with my wife, children, and grandchildren, three generations of Parrotheads. I have reconnected with grade school and junior high friends at concerts. And much more.

And later, my wife gave me the gift of going with her to the Broadway Musical **Escape to Margaritaville**.

When he died, I received condolences from so many of my friends and so many members of my congregation. His death was like the death of a part of my life. It was more than the concerts; it was the time with my son and family, and friends, tailgating, and being welcomed into a larger family of Parrotheads.

Many of you may have noticed that I tend to think in terms of song lyrics, many of them Jimmy's, as my congregation can attest, as I often work his lyrics into my messages. I added some links below to music that moves my soul that came through Jimmy.

When I returned to Church after his death, I thanked the church for their condolences and birthday wishes and I said I wanted to quote Jimmy Buffett to tie them together. I said, "I'm growing older, but not up." My favorite song is **Southern Cross** with the line, "Love can endure, and you know it will."

One of the lines that I treasure was used by Father Greg at my daughter's funeral some five years ago. "Some of it's magic, some of it's tragic, but I've had a good life all the way." (**From He Went to Paris**)

During a difficult time in my life, I was able to see the musical **Don't Stop the Carnival** at The Coconut Grove Playhouse. It was magical and helped me make it through a tough time. I treasure that album. My license plate is CALALOO a song from that show, which has the great lines.

Calaloo, strange Calaloo  
Mysterious, curious roux  
Though some might think that somehow they are not  
Make no mistake, we're all in the same pot.  
<https://youtu.be/YBgvZyhZ3yk?si=nEXWjCDBPjuOa57Z>

Another thing Jimmy has done for my family and I is introduce us to the music of Peter Mayer, his lead guitarist. I have been going to twenty years of his **Stars and Promises** concerts. Of special meaning are the songs **Sing Joy**, for my daughter

[https://youtu.be/ZgrQW-2qTgI?si=ILxNTDh\\_Pv1mGA6j](https://youtu.be/ZgrQW-2qTgI?si=ILxNTDh_Pv1mGA6j)

and **Harmony** for my father.

[https://youtu.be/S0xP5e4Ovsw?si=Cduum\\_2l9mzeht6u](https://youtu.be/S0xP5e4Ovsw?si=Cduum_2l9mzeht6u)

Radio Margaritaville is my constant companion in my car, and I found another song, although by someone else, catches the spirit of being a Parrothead but even more expresses a good deal of my pastoral identity: **Dance with Everybody** by Drew Holcomb.

[https://youtu.be/EGC-36JlvyY?si=I\\_XIAKxThsVzv8dp](https://youtu.be/EGC-36JlvyY?si=I_XIAKxThsVzv8dp)

### **Bubbles Up**

Sail on. Jimmy