

**News/Blog article links:**

<http://www.newsandsentinel.com/page/blogs.detail/display/451.html>

<http://blues.about.com/od/bluesnews/a/PatRamsey.htm>

<http://blog.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=blog.view&friendID=45122033&blogID=449812710>

[http://www.deltafrost.com/forum\\_posts.asp?TID=4853&PID=48258](http://www.deltafrost.com/forum_posts.asp?TID=4853&PID=48258)

<http://jukejointsoul.blogspot.com/2008/11/blues-rock-harmonica-blaster-pat-ramsey.html>

<http://tallahassee.com/article/20081121/ENT/811210310/1005/RSS05>

<http://blues.about.com/od/bluesnews/a/PatRamsey.htm>

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Jason Ricci blog:

<http://blog.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=blog.view&friendID=45122033&blogID=449812710>

Monday, November 17, 2008

**Death In Our Family (Pat Ramsey)**

Today I write to let you all know that a man who has been more of a real father to me than my own and one of the most important innovators and players of this instrument has died today at 3:11 pm after a long, painful, and frustrating battle with Hep C.

Pat Ramsey is in my book the very first real rock and roll harmonica player to play the blues. Pat played what he heard those musicians around him do, they were not harp players. That's how he came up with the sound he had. He never cared about harmonica licks or other players, although he loved, admired and appreciated them all very much, Pat was interested in creating music and navigating his instrument the way other musicians do like Johnny Winter, Julian Kasper, Walter Trout and so many other greats he didn't care about trends, industry behaviors or anything else besides the music he was making. He just played and the way he played made me move from Maine to Memphis in 1995 to be at every one of his shows and learn from him. What I learned was so much more than scales, licks, and ways to navigate different chord changes. I learned slowly and stubbornly, how to tray and start being an accountable human being and take responsibility for my actions at least the ones that were getting me in trouble. Because of Pat I learned I was a drug addict. He never once pointed a finger at me either. Never even told me directly that he thought that. He simply told me stories about himself and his past that were exactly the same mistakes I was making and would make and even though I didn't listen much I remembered them like nightmares. Those stories became a sort of check list for me as the years, crimes, nights in jail and failed ventures and relationships piled up until I could no longer be in all out denial anymore. Pat was patient, loving and always available for me even when I was strung out at 4:00 in the morning. The people I hang with now call this "planting the seed". When I turned myself into the cops for a

crime I had not even been caught, suspected or charged for in order to get into jail where I knew I could be away from the drugs for the most part, I did it with Pat's guidance and the only person besides my mother who bothered to write me (and I didn't even deserve anyone in my life!) was Pat Ramsey. He sent me Shirts, hats, and smokes. My mail was screened in there because it was this boot camp like scenario offered for individuals that wanted help instead of simple incarceration. Pat's letters after being screened were more than once read aloud to the all the inmates as an example of positive living. That's how powerful a person he was.

I would be nowhere in my music, my life or my sobriety without the guidance of this incredible individual named Pat Ramsey who truly never got his due. Pat's love obviously extended much beyond me he was a huge influence on Sean Costello who I came to know through Pat when he appeared on Pat's first solo record: "It's about time" in 1995. Sean was fifteen years old and Pat knew before almost anyone how talented he was. Sean's playing on that record to date is still ground breaking as the record itself remains so as well. Billy Gibson is the young man who I first heard at blues city café in 1995 on a jam night that after stepping down from the stage and accepting my compliments, told me: "You think I'm good....Wait till you hear this next guy." Billy went on to produce that record ("It's about time") and hire the young Costello. Pat never had the opportunity to touch as many players as even I have had. Some of that is bad luck, music business bullshit, and some of it is just plain Pat's fault, but those he did touch remained changed forever in a way that very few players have ever been able to do. I am one of those. Pat would have crowds gathered around him on Beal ST. in between sets laughing and hanging on his every word as he told music business war stories, Jokes and tales of Johnny Winter, and the Allman Brother with his pessimistic and cynical sense of humor. He may have appeared bitter and he certainly was often, but he never gave up, never lost the love of music and always inspired and demanded respect!

Pat was very sick for many years with Hep C, The Interferon never worked, back problems and other medical ailments plagued him without pause until finally early this summer he was hospitalized, after that it has been a painfully slow winding down process and in one way his death has come as a gift, as it has ended his suffering at last. Five days ago he was moved from his house to hospice. I got to spend some time with him, Jimmy and Clyde Ramsey two weeks ago. I had never met Jimmy Ramsey before so that was cool too. Pat looked like he was 90 years old and was very sick. He was in good spirits for the most part, I gave him a Joe Spiers harp, and some bread we had raised for him at our Nathan P Murphy's Benefit. Pat was well enough to get a little jealous of me that I was going on tour with Walter Trout but then congratulated me of course. It would have been unlike him to not be a little pissed at that and he certainly does in many ways deserve to be doing this tour instead of me. We called Walter that day too, Pat had never met him but was a big fan and very much a peer and kindred spirit. Walter made Pat feel great and Pat seemed to be in perfect working order at least for that phone call! Pat told Walter: "I love what you have done for this music"!

Pat was only in Hospice for a little over a week. His drummer Steve Howell has been incredible, keeping everyone informed sometimes two or three times Dailey, taking care of Pat every day and being an incredible help to the family. Steve has been a hero through out all of this and has my utmost admiration, respect and gratitude! Steve Howell is an incredible human being and friend to all of us! Without Steve Pat's passing would have been very hard on me in many ways too personal for me to describe here.

Pat is survived by his two son's James (Jimmy) and Clyde Ramsey (Who sings and plays just like his Dad) and his wife. He will be missed but never forgotten his influence serves to date as the skeletal structure behind everything I play. To Pat: my friend, the man who called me his "Son", my mentor I commend your life and your music here in print now and in every positive word I speak, and every note I will ever play and most I have already, God Bless You and Thank you Sir for your Love, creativity, strength guidance and appreciation for truth. Play on in heaven where no one will care how many notes you play only if they count, and you made them all count here on earth. Thank you my Father! So much of this story is about me and others as a life so often is. I am proud to write this here, and very proud to have known this man. I have shouted it my whole carrer from the stage, on you tube and to any one who will listen. He lives on in me and in you. Go buy some records at <http://patramsey.com> do your homework and get that man in your harmonica vocabulary. You can also donate money to his family there as well. To the "Reverend" Pat Ramsey as Billy called you. We miss you already my friend.  
Jason Ricci

Jason Ricci & New Blood  
[www.jasonricci.com](http://www.jasonricci.com)  
[jason@jasonricci.com](mailto:jason@jasonricci.com)

**Notes from:**

<http://harp-l.org/pipermail/harp-l/2008-November/date.html>

*\* most of these are in response to a reposting of Jason Ricci's blog, above*

A great loss to the music and harmonica world...I never knew the man but very much admired his playing and his style. My condolences to you, his family and his friends.

sincerely,  
tom albanese

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First of all I echo the many thoughts concerning Pat...tragic to say the least. I only met Pat once at the KC SPAH several years ago, but he was one of those players that you paid attention to because it was not the standard 10 blues licks. Jason my thoughts are with you and Pat's family. He will be missed...  
-- PT Gazell

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Deepest condolences on your loss Jason and a greater loss to our Harmonica Community, your tribute was eloquent, respectful and quite moving, thank you for sharing it with the list. It is a shame Pat did not get more recognition in his lifetime as he was quite a heavy Bluesman and way beyond with his progressive approach to music. I never really was too familiar with his work and thanx to you for turning more players onto to him. I actually dowloaded some of his music a few yrs ago on your reccomendation and was knocked out by how "ahead of his time he was".

His Solo work and music with the great Johnny Winter will live on for the world to remember him by.....rest well Pat Ramsey.

Love & Peace,  
Rob Paporozzi

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I got see Pat play live on a fridged night in march about 7 or 8 ago It snowed about 3 feet that night...It was a wild ride home and the show Pat put on along with his band was just as wild. The tone and licks Pat had were perfect in every way, great singer and showman too. Of course I bought a CD and the tunes are definitely in a style all his own - he has that fresh feeling about his music, like Paul Delay and Red Archibald did! My sympathy goes out to all those who loved him...  
Frank

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dang! Pat Ramsey is gone! one of my top 3 or 4 alltime favorite harp players...he was a monster harp player on so many levels.. technical excecution, fabulous incisive rock/blues tone, originality, distinctiveness and just pleasing to the ears and the sensibilities always which to me is the (rare) mark of a true professional level harmonica player. many years ago (70's) while in my blues band in madison,wisconsin we did a number of johnny winter songs off ( i believe) red, hot and blue. on that album pat ramsey did a 2 verse solo on Honest I Do , first position on an A-harp, then switches to 2nd position on a D-harp and just knocks you on your ass with the harp change which basically takes on an abrupt amplified-style no apologies rock harp approach upon switching from 1st to 2nd position with one of those classic pat ramsey riffs that sound so simple but are deceptively clever . he was a monster so way way above the others. r.i.p.

cletus white

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The first time I met Pat was in the early 80's in Tallahassee. What I remember about that was him playing the keyboard part that Bill Payne of Little Feat played on the opening to the song Skin it Back. Changed my world. I met him again many years later, also in Tallahassee. He played around with my brass comb Filisko and showed me how to play Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White ala Jerry Portnoy. Thanks to Bobbie G for that. She dragged me kicking and screaming to that club. Then there's the White Hot and Blue stuff With Johnny Winter. Anybody of a certain age played that version of Honest I do over and over again.  
--Fjm

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Jason... that was one of the most heartfelt tributes I have ever read.  
I had the chance to meet Pat at SPAH in Kansas City. My main memory of him, other than his superb playing, was that he was so open to learning something new. One night in KC, I found him in the hotel lobby with a young kid, about 16 years old. This young man's only exposure to harmonica before he came to SPAH was his John Popper recordings and the boy had spent a lot of time and had learned much of Popper's style.  
So there the two of them were, the young kid showing the veteran how to play some of those fast licks. I just thought that was very cool.  
You were lucky, Jason, to have met someone like that who helped change your life. We harmonica players have been lucky to have guys like Pat and Gary Primich, despite their early departures from this world.  
My sincere condolences.  
Steve Webb in Minnesota

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If anyone reading this has never heard Pat Ramsey's playing on Johnny Winter's "Red Hot and Blue" album.....shame on you.

Cletus mentioned Ramsey's playing on "Honest I Do". Just listen to the first notes on that song. The tone that Pat has on that song is clean, pure, and soooooo warm... even on the 7-10 blows.

There is a lightning fast run on "Last Night" that still pops my ears today (at this very moment as a matter of fact) and slaps Popper down almost twenty years prior.

And Johnny must have known it too since he (to my knowledge) never gave anyone as much presence on his albums as Pat had on that album (OK, maybe Johnny's brother Edgar, but that's family so it jez don' count).

The top three albums that turned me from a rock drumming teenager to blues harper were Big Walter "Fine Cuts", Magic Dick on J Geils "Full House", and Pat Ramsey on "Red Hot & Blue".

I consider Pat Ramsey one of the true greats, and I'll miss him.  
--David Brown

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With a heavy heart I offer my condolences to Jason and all associated with Pat.  
--Hal Iwan

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Im so sorry to hear about Pat's passing. We used to run into each other on the road from time to time. He was always very positive and full of encouragement. Pat also freely gave advice on how to improve my sound. We shared the stage many times and had a lot of laughs. I always respected Pat as a decent person with extraordinary musical ability. I wish Pat all the best on his next journey and I send my love to his family and friends around the world.  
--Harper

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A friend of mine gave me a cassette with White, Hot and Blue from an Lp he has. He said to me: You have to hear the harmonica man, he just riff like nobody before and trade solos with Johnny... He did not tell who he was.. I was stunned! I still have the cassette and now like today i discover who the guy was. I search over compilations of cd from JW, no info...nothing to tell me who was the awesome harp player.

Never to late to learn even on sad and early departure of a master of his skills

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Comuna de Santos  
[www.santificate.net](http://www.santificate.net)  
[www.myspace.com/comunadesantos](http://www.myspace.com/comunadesantos)

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So sad ! Thanks for sending the post Jason. I had the pleasure of meeting and hanging with Pat at the Kansas City SPAH. We got along well and liked each other, he was a cool guy. I then had the chance to help him by doing the fundraiser to get him through his Katrina hurricane loss and then finally took a drive to a Pennsylvania gig of his (I'm in Jersey) where we got to hang out a little more. Also hung with his drummer Steve and Jason is right, he's a good guy too. The message, life is short and a gift to be appreciated, so what are you going to do with the gift? Try to help

our human race and love your family and friends. Maybe a little tune on our friend the harmonica will bring a smile to their faces. Pat knew that and did that. Glad our paths crossed.

Goodbye Pat Ramsey, your music lives on.

With Respect,  
Reach

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Jason:

You've done Pat proud. He truly is your 'real' father in every sense of the word, and you his son. You two couldn't have cared about each other more if you were kin. I've always felt those we choose to be our 'family' can mean far more to us than blood relatives we're given no choice about. At least it's worked that way in my own life.

I learned of Pat through you and your years-ago writings on Harp-I, and then met him at my very first Jason Ricci Annual SPAH Blow-off in Kansas City. I took some photos..not the best since they came out a bit dark, but the one I treasure the most and just happened to be looking at again the other day...shows you beaming with happiness as Pat played. The look of pride and joy on your face to have him there as your guest said it all.

I'm unutterably sad for you today. Despite how well you always write, your eulogy of Pat was most probably the hardest thing you've ever had to put into words, yet your love for him ensured that you'd air your pain and grief to the world, just to help us know a little about the Pat Ramsey you knew.

All my tears are for you today, my friend. I'll be thinking of Pat..free at last..raucously playing his harp and singing "Build me a Woman"...my most favourite of his songs.

--Elizabeth

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My sincere condolences to you Jason. We will observe a minute of silence for Pat Ramsey at our third quarterly SFBayharpers jam tomorrow night. And thanks for alerting those of us who were unaware of Pat Ramsey's life and playing.

--Bob Loomis

Concord CA

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My codelences, to all the people who was relatives to him.

Of course I never met Pat, I had just a couple of sweet email messages from him on myspace last year. Pat was and still is a wonderful musician first, and second a terrific harp player. Wherever you're now, you'll never be forgot

We miss you  
Christelle

---

To me, Pat WAS blues harmonica, period. I first saw him in 1987 opening for Johnny Winter in Fort Lauderdale, FL. I was a high school kid and a big blues nut, but not yet fully into playing harp (though I dug Junior Wells and Sonny Boy II and Little Walter). Still, when that little unassuming dude with the big glasses stepped back from his vocal mic and starting blasting, everything else faded. "This guy is better than Little Walter!" I thought. Obviously, even Pat would disagree with that - but as a kid of 18 who was just starting to explore the blues and blues harp, I became a Pat disciple. After a song or two (I remember he dedicated "Crossroads" to Butterfield, who had just died), Pat said they were from Tallahassee -- where I was headed off to for college! I don't remember a thing about Johnny Winter's show that night .... after The Pat Ramsey Band, nothing else mattered.

Starting that fall when I arrived at FSU as a freshman, I must have seen Pat and his band dozens of times. It's funny, but for all the ferocious power that he brought to amplified harp, I have two very different memories, crystal recollections of Pat making gorgeous, pretty music that made the hair on my neck stand up. Once was at a jam session when he sang "People Get Ready" with Pam Laws, a gospel/jazz singer and Tallahassee legend. The other time was once when Steve Howell busted the head on his bass drum. While Steve was fixing it, Pat sang and blew some solo harp - I can't remember which song, but it was a Sonny Boy II tune and it was so perfect and in the pocket. Classic. During those years in Tallahassee, I got a few chances to speak to Pat, but honestly I was so star-struck I don't think I ever really got out more than, "Uhh, you're great, man." I later learned that, during that era, he probably didn't have much to say either, for reasons all his own.

Fastforward a decade or more and I'm sitting in a blues bar in West Palm Beach, FL waiting for an open mic jam to start. A bunch of us are at the bar talking about unsung harp players, guys more people should know. At the same time, me and some skinny kid next to me said "PAT RAMSEY!" That kid was Jason Ricci, who later went on to become my friend and teacher. Through Jason, I eventually met Pat and got to spend some time speaking with him. On my desk right now is the CD I had Pat autograph, plus my copy of "White, Hot & Blue." For more than 20 years now I don't think I've gone a week without thinking about Pat's music. As a harp player he's the guy I keep coming back to. I read once where baby zebras get the visual impression of their mother's stripes and they never forget that pattern, it's how they find home after they've wandered about in the herd. Well, Pat's blues - his blues with a feeling - is that ingrained in me, it's like those those zebra stripes.

Thanks for everything, Pat. Say hi to Duane and Jimi.

MN

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I am now sitting at work with tears on my cheeks. i heard about Pat from Jason's website years ago. When i heard his playing AND singing, i bought a cd immediately. it is one of my most treasured.

i never got to meet him, but a little part of him will live on through my harp, and i'm sure anyone else who has been influenced by him. My condolences and heart go to Jason and Pat's family and friends.

Shawn

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My wife and I live in Tallahassee. Pat's son Clyde is a great friend of mine, as was his dad.

My wife and I owned a pastry shop for years and we made the cake for Clyde and Carly's wedding. Pat and his guitarist came to the wedding and played "Honest I Do". Just Pat, his harp and that National guitar under the gazebo on a beautiful day in a shady park surrounded by flowers, friends and love.

Of all the times I have ever heard that song, I finally "heard" it that day.

That's how I will always remember Pat Ramsey and Honest I Do.

John Balding  
Tallahassee, FL

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I am saddened by the news that Pat Ramsey has passed away; and was deeply touched by Jason's post.

My heart goes out to Pat's family, and of course to Jason.

If not for Jason I likely would never have heard of Pat Ramsey since (sadly) I was never a big Johnny Winter fan growing up. However, he opened my eyes and ears to the music of Mr. Ramsey. And also largely because of Jason, I was able to meet Pat at a SPAH convention a few years ago, hear him rock the house with a live band, and then hang and jam with him in the "amp room" for a few hours. The man had chops, a sharp wit and a ferocious commitment to his music.

Rest his soul.  
Harpin in Colorado,  
--Ken M.

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**Notes from Bushman Music Forums:**

[http://www.deltafrost.com/forum\\_posts.asp?TID=4853&PID=48260](http://www.deltafrost.com/forum_posts.asp?TID=4853&PID=48260)

Pat was a player with huge tone and from your letter a bigger soul and heart. His work with Johnny Winter was a inspiration to how I approached playing many years ago. I never met the man, wish I had. My heart felt condolences to you, his family and friends on this great loss.

Chris " Sully " O'Sullivan

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He was a great player

Sincerely,  
Barbeque Bob Maglinte  
Boston, MA

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It is quite painful to know this. What a great man he was, I wish he could have met him. Another to add to the list for me, it truly is a disappointing, sad, hurtful day. My heart bleeds for him.

-ZackP

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I was fortunate enough to catch Pat playing Lou's Blues in Indialantic, Florida. I travel to Florida every year to visit my family for the holidays. It was December, 2006, if memory serves. I saw Pat was playing Lous Blues, which happens to be four blocks from my parents house in Florida. Problem-Pat was playing on the 16th-my ticket to fly was to arrive on the 17th. I called Jet Blue, and for \$25.00, they changed my ticket to the 16th.

I arrived in Orlando, only hours prior to Pats show. I jumped in the shower, said "HI" and "BYE" to my folks, and headed out the door. The place was packed. After the first set, I introduced myself to Pat. I did not know much about Pat, until Jason mentioned that's where he got his inspiration from. I told Pat I had seen Jason a number of times, and said, "Now I know where Jason came from"-he just gave me a grin from ear to ear, then said "Thanks-I appreciate that".

Thats the kind of guy Pat was-humble, yet outgoing-a master of tone, phrasing, and speed.

Godspeed Pat-you will be missed. And God bless his friends and family.  
Tom Fiacco.

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I didn't know Pat, but Jason pointed me to his music. I ordered one of his CDs (Live at the Grand) and he sent me a second one for free (It's About Time) with a little note in it that said "I thought you might like this, its Jason's favorite". What a classy guy.

--jpmcbride

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Notes from: [www.MySpace.com/patramseythebluesdisciples](http://www.MySpace.com/patramseythebluesdisciples)

Mary4Music 



**Nov 18 2008 3:48 PM**

RIP Pat....

Alex and Leanna



**Nov 18 2008 3:41 PM**

We love you

**RAMSEY 11BRAVO  
INFANTRY  
SOLDIER**



**Nov 18 2008 1:17 PM**

I love you and miss you daddy

jht



**Nov 18 2008 12:33 PM**

R.I.P.  
Mister Ramsey

diatoman le bon



**Nov 18 2008 12:23 PM**

The Blues has lost a good friend...  
Salut Pat.

Patrice



**Nov 18 2008 11:39 AM**

All the best where you are Pat...

[Lanceman](#)



Sorry to hear of the loss of a great bluesman and fellow musician. God bless all of ya'll associated and related to Pat. He suffers no more. My prayers will be with ya'll. Sincerely,  
Lany Rice

Nov 17, 2008 7:04 PM

[judy](#)



we will love you always and miss you dearly. judy

Nov 18, 2008 6:02 AM

[HAMLIN AND LA](#)



**Nov 18 2008 7:50 AM**

ALTHOUGH WE NEVER MET PAT WAS ONE OF OUR FIRST MYSPACE FRIENDS AND HIS MUSIC TOUCHED OUR SOULS. JAM ON FOREVER PAT!!

[THE DELTA AMPS](#)  
[blues band](#)  
[featuring Billy](#)  
[James](#)



**Nov 18 2008 4:05 AM**

Sorry to hear Pats gone off 'flying those harmonica blues around the heavens'. A great man I never met however even over here in Australia He touched us on the North East coast not only with his music, but with his decency and care when communicating about blues harp'in. My sincere love and condolences to all Pats family and friends.

[Lisa](#)

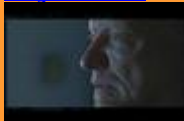


**Nov 18 2008 3:41 AM**

What a blessing to have had you in our lives,  
whether as a dear friend or  
to just have been lucky enough  
to hear & see you play with passion...

You may not be here with us physically anymore,  
but you will always be here with us in our hearts.  
~ God Bless You Pat Ramsey ~

[floydman9](#)



**Nov 18 2008 3:37 AM**

Peace over you Pat, peace over your family. I never heard anyone play like you my brother. Your skill and the love of it will stay with me forever. As an artist you inspired me and I am grateful to have known you, fished with you, and had the pleasure of your company.

Blessings  
floyd

[Reijo](#)



**Nov 17 2008 11:06 PM**

Rest in Peace Maestro!  
Reijo  
Helsinki

[Jason Ricci & New Blood](#)



**Nov 17 2008 10:40 PM**

Miss you Dad!



[Ty](#)



**Nov 17 2008 9:40 PM**

you will be missed!!

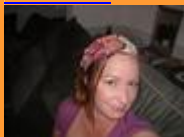
[Scott McCullough](#)



**Nov 17 2008 8:36 PM**

Pat was a hero to me, and his fluid, innovative technique has been a tremendous influence on my own playing. I regret that I only got to meet Pat in person once. I hoped that I'd get to see him perform again. Instead, I'll strive to carry on his gift, and pass on to young players so he's never forgotten.  
Godspeed, Pat!

[Heather](#)



**Nov 17 2008 7:53 PM**

Your music touched the souls of so many. The true test of a man is how many friends he has and you have a lot. You will be dearly missed. I'll see ya on the other side.  
Love,  
Heather

[Rare Blend Blues Band](#)



**Nov 17 2008 4:27 PM**

I was very saddened to hear about Pat this afternoon.

[SinSirRae\\*](#)



~ sending love and prayers your way ~ may you just be at peace ~ love you ~

[Willy Fingers \(R-FL\)](#)



Our prayers are with the Ramsey family and friends from Willy and the Langston family.

[Brian](#)



My thoughts and prayers are with you ...

[Neoma](#)



**Nov 18 2008 10:11 PM**

Sweet Dreams Pat

[JTdrumshop](#)



**Nov 18 2008 9:37 PM**

AN AMAZING SINGER, HARP MAN & MUSICIAN THAT SPREAD PASSION AND UNITY THRU MUSIC .WE WILL MISS YOU BROTHER  
P.S. I REALLY AM "ALLERGIC TO WORK" .PAT KNEW IT WAY BEFORE MY DOCTORS DID .  
(PIC-BILL, PAT-THE PEARL)



[Gina Fox](#)



**Nov 18 2008 5:31 PM**

Dream sweet and sleep in Peace my brother! I'll keep our Kiawah close to my heart!!

Love  
Gina Fox

[Reverend Rod](#)



**Nov 18 2008 4:49 PM**

Love and Prayers Mr. Ramsey. Thanks for your gifts of song.

Rod W.

Ottawa, Canada

[House of Payne](#)



**Nov 18 2008 4:14 PM**

How can you possibly be prepared for such a loss??? He will live on through his music...I am happy to have known him, he affected us all. (Laura)

[redtassels](#)



Pat touched so many lives not to mention his contributions to music. He will be missed dearly. My heart goes out to his family, especially his wife and children.

My husband, Ed, and I will miss him deeply.

Our condolences:  
Ed Vertuno and Tammy Poole

[BackinChicago](#)



**Nov 20 2008 7:50 PM**

My deepest condolences to all who loves this man.

[Rockin' Jake](#)



**Nov 20 2008 2:57 PM**

My deepest condolences to the Ramsey family, Steve, Dave and the rest of the Blues Disciples. Pat was a good man, amazingly talented and real hard worker. I'll cherish the few times we crossed paths on the road and got to jam in Key West. Rest easy brother.

[Road Dog 51](#)



**Nov 20 2008 2:35 PM**

I did not know Pat all that well, but I saw in him a man obsessed with his music, his life and giving the audience all he had to give. With all the "fake" entertainers out there today, Pat was a very original player and man. God Bless him and you all who loved and knew him best.....we have lost a GIANT in music!!!

**judy**

**Nov 20 2008 7:47 AM**

i can hear you playin' up there, we luv you pat.

**Nov 19 2008 7:15 PM**

Pat,

I always considered you as one of my favorite cousin. When we were together it was always a good time. Watching you perform was always a pleasure and a JAM!!! I will never forget the times you and the band stayed at my house, those times will never be forgotten.

Best wishes to Jimmy, Clyde and Debbie.

Hope to see ya in the next world.

R.I.P. Pat

Joe B.

**Joe**



**Jack Hurst**



**Nov 19 2008 4:55 PM**

This is Linda speaking for Jack Hurst.

Pat, you were a fine man and a fine harp player. I look forward to seeing you and playing the blues with you again.

**Nov 19 2008 4:48 PM**

**Little Wing AKA  
Linda**



I'm so sorry to hear about Pat's death. I feel especially for his wife since my husband, Jack Hurst, died 4 years ago last May. To anyone who has contact with her, please put her in touch with me. I know what she's going thru and may be able to offer her some support if she wants or needs it from me. I only met Pat one time when he was playing here in Pensacola. It seems so unfair that he lost his life after having turned it around. All I can say is that if there's a heaven, it has one awesome band.

Linda Hurst

**Jason Ricci & New  
Blood**



**Nov 19 2008 3:48 PM**

I'm in the wish I could call you on the Phone to tell you how bad I feel that your gone stage now. In Amssterdam thinking about you every two minutes...no fun. Love you.



Notes from: [www.MySpace.com/jasonriccinewblood](http://www.MySpace.com/jasonriccinewblood)

[Brian @ Harp Gear](#)



RIP PAT!

Posted by [Brian @ Harp Gear](#) on Nov 17, 2008 5:41 PM

[Dave Fertig](#)



... We know Pat sits on your shoulder and his wisdom goes forward with you...

Dave Fertig, Louisa Simpson

Posted by [Dave Fertig](#) on Nov 17, 2008 8:03 PM

[Beardo](#)



I'm stunned. ...He will be missed.

Beardo

Posted by [Beardo](#) on Nov 17, 2008 8:03 PM

[Blue Bizness](#)



Jason,  
Pat will be missed by me and many friends, who, thanks to you, were introduced to his music years ago. I never missed a chance to see Pat, Steve, and Dave when they were in the Philly area.

I wanted to share a story to let people know what kind of a guy Pat was: my bandmate Mike's son, Owen Sproat, started playing harmonica at around age 8 and I gave him a Pat Ramsey CD and some harps for his birthday. Owen pretty much took off on the harmonica and by age 9 could rough his way through "I'm Gonna Build me a Woman" among other Pat numbers. When the Blues Disciples came through Philly at Cafe Classics, Pat met and sat down with Owen before the show, listened to him play, gave him pointers on playing and equipment and called him up on stage to play along on "Build Me a Woman!" He really spent alot of time with him that night, which thrilled Owen to no end. A year later, when Owen was 10, Pat called Owen up once again to play with he and the band at AJs, and really seemed to enjoy trading licks on the harmonica back and forth with Owen. Me and my bandmates, and especially Owen will always remember Pat and his kindness.

Zig

Posted by [Blue Bizness](#) on Nov 17, 2008 9:45 PM

[Scott McCullough](#)



... I only met Pat once, but his playing has been a huge influence on me. I envy you for having known him as you did. My deepest condolences on your loss.

Posted by [Scott McCullough](#) on Nov 17, 2008 9:46 PM

[BUZZ KRANTZ](#)



I wish I could express to you my feelings at this moment. I'm so sorry that I didn't have more time with Pat. I love him dearly as did everyone who knew him. This is a great loss to all of us.

buzz.....

Posted by [BUZZ KRANTZ](#) on Nov 17, 2008 9:46 PM

[Coin of One](#)



...Truly, it is with great reverence I offer up a prayer to the beings mightier than I and ask that they carry this spirit in which we call Pat Ramsey to a place of greatness. A place where music is of a dimension we can only hope to understand and tap into...Surely goodness and mercy shall follow this man that nurtured you.

Let his spirit fuel you to greatness...Make music in his honor...carry on his light!

I light a candle, bow my head, and sing may the Lord be gracious...Amen!

I hug you! Penny

Posted by [Coin of One](#) on Nov 17, 2008 9:48 PM

[B<sup>2</sup>](#)



My condolences go out to you & yours. Take time, (make time!), to feel the strike, hard though it may be, for it is the the only way to truly mend and grow from his passing.

RIP Pat... Jam ON!!! That Rock-n-Roll band in heaven now has one helluva harp player to add to the mix!!!

-BB

Posted by [B<sup>2</sup>](#) on Nov 17, 2008 10:38 PM

[Brenden Schultz](#)



...WOW...

i'm sorry for the loss...and incredibly grateful for what little bit i got to know him.

even when he was feeling way down, he managed to encourage and inspire me.

Posted by [Brenden Schultz](#) on Nov 18, 2008 1:35 AM

[Coleman Taylor](#)



God Bless Pat, I met him at S.B.I and was very nice man, took time to talk and tell stories, his playing was just so great...Cole

Posted by [Coleman Taylor](#) on Nov 18, 2008 1:36 AM

**Notes from:**

[www.ourstage.com/fanclub/patramseyandthebluesdisciples](http://www.ourstage.com/fanclub/patramseyandthebluesdisciples)

**Posted by rexsruins3** on Nov 19 at 11:46 AM EST

A wonderfully gifted artist whose talent we all aspire to achieve. He will be missed. My condolences.  
I wish, for him...Peace

---

**Posted by The AC Thundertones** on Nov 19 at 8:33 AM EST

Dear freinds family and Ourstage members:

It was with great sadness that I heard of Pat's passing. He was a truly uniques talent that gave so very much to the music world. I while back I'd suggested to OURSTAGE that (if possible) I would donate a song from The AC Thundertones roster and give it to Pat and family. The idea was to try and get others here at ourstage to do the same thing. I felt that this could possibly be made into a CD and sold to help Pat's family with any and all arrangements and financial things.

This offer still is on the table of you wouod like.

For now I Johnny and I send our sincere condolences to Pat and family as we'll miss his great songs, great talent and a great man.

We hope you can somehow be comforted at this most trying time.

With much love,  
Paul & John Zarvis

---

**Posted by Jeff Wyatt** on Nov 18 at 9:28 PM EST

Here was a great man and talent who will be truly missed. Thanks for leaving the music and the memories here for us to keep. It's my wish that this page will remain indefinitely.  
-Jeff Wyatt

---

**Posted by Teraj** on Nov 18 at 8:03 PM EST

His spirit and music will live on forever, you're in my prayers

---

**Posted by Shiloh** on Nov 18 at 7:44 PM EST

well we may have lost a legend but now god has him playing the blues up in the clouds. He'll be surely missed and my condolences to the family your in my prayers

---

**Posted by DICARLO** on Nov 18 at 7:07 PM EST

My condolences.

Very sad to hear about Pat.

May his music live on forever.

God Bless.

---

**Posted by garyrevel** on Nov 18 at 6:31 PM EST

It's a blue day for the Blues.

---

**Posted by lovescandal** on Nov 18 at 3:57 PM EST

We are very sorry to hear this.. our condolences !

---

**Posted by miltos** on Nov 18 at 3:19 AM EST

I'm so sorry to hear this...He will be missed.

---

**Posted by NaYR** on Nov 17 at 10:06 PM EST

I'm so sorry to hear about Pat, he will be missed. I will send up a prayer for him and all the Blues Disciples. Peace and God Bless.

NaYR

---

**Posted by Acoustic Rust** on Nov 17 at 9:03 PM EST

God's blessings to Pat's family and friends. Thanks for sharing your muse with us, Pat. We will all miss you and your great blues harp.

Peace and Warmest Regards,

AR

---

**Posted by Cathie Fredrickson** on Nov 17 at 8:55 PM EST

My condolences to all Pats family and friends..... Pat will truly be missed, yet his music will live on in the hearts and mind of all who have ever listened..... Peace to all, Sincerely, Cathie

---

**From:**

<http://www.bigbendbikersforfreedom.com/2008/11/local-blues-man-pat-ramsey-in-wind.html>

11/18/08

**Local Blues man Pat Ramsey, in the wind**

Renowned for his incendiary harmonica work on Johnny Winter's "White Hot & Blue" LP, Pat Ramsey has been called "a harp player's harp player".

The Blues Disciples latest CD release is "Live at the Big Bend Blues Bash"

He passed away 11-17-08

My bet is he's got them angels rockin.

---Posted by rc

---

*\*This one was on a Japanese blog (and I forgot to grab the link!). Here's a "maybe accurate" translation:*

**Yuki writes:**

Pat Ramsey who was in a hospice in the fight against disease, as I've written earlier, died Nov 17, 2008.

Now, Nov 18 after 1:30 in the morning, I had to sleep, Jason Ricci posted the news to the mailing list I learned to read. It was sad to me, because in this blogs he shares his feelings and thoughts.

I've posted this video in the past, but I would like to mention again:  
(link to Pat Ramsey & Blues Disciples ... "Build Me A Women")

R.I.P.

**kanshinmusou comments:**

November 19, 2008 to 1:19 pm

Sometimes, I see a blog is sad. I did not know Pat Ramsey, but I wish the best for his soul. I saw videos, played in the cool flow. In third position is blowing? Is very cool.

---

<http://tweedsblues.net/fieldhollars/read.php?f=2&i=77732&t=77730>

Author: [Bullethaid](#) (---.sip.bct.bellsouth.net)

Date: 11-20-08 11:10

Very sad news... Pat Ramsey has passed away after his long battle with hepatitis C.

A man of grace and courtesy that would sacrifice his own interests when he could aid others in need. His private tribulations never kept him from offering solace and support to those stricken and forlorn. I hadn't spoken with Pat in months... and now wish I had. He was such a patient guy, in spite of how the music business treated him. It baffles me how players of his caliber are somehow ignored by those that claim to know talent. I never missed an opportunity to schedule him when he traveled this far south.

His shows were amazing, powerful displays of a true musical craftsman. His harp mastery influenced many. One of the best soul vocalists I ever heard, a stylist that you knew felt every line he played or sang. First saw him with CCS (Crosscut Saw) in Tallahassee back in the mid-70s, when he had brought in young Julien on guitar to astonish us all, and the rehearsals and jams happened at Butch Trucks' little place on Gaines Street.

I'm truly saddened by his passing.  
Rest in peace, Pat... go on and blow past Gabriel.

RH

---

Author: [trancetime](http://trancetime.ard.bellsouth.net) (---.ard.bellsouth.net)

Date: 11-20-08 12:57

Wow! Pat was one of the best harp players out there, he will be missed, have no other words. I am still trying to get over losing Carey and Gary Primach.

RIP Pat Ramsey

---

<http://blog.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=blog.view&friendID=183630825&blogID=450575493>

Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008

From Gary at the BBC (Bradfordville Blues Club)

We had another weekend of some pretty diverse stuff with Albert Cummings Blues/rock fretwork on Thursday, JB's Zydeco throwdown on Friday, and the unique and superb North Mississippi Hill country blues of Cedric Burnside and Lightin' Malcolm on Saturday.

All of that is overshadowed by the passing of **Pat Ramsey** on Monday afternoon. Pat was a mainstay in the Tallahassee music scene dating back to the '70's and Crosscut Saw. It didn't take long for him to become nationally renowned for his fiery and energetic harp playing, including touring and recording with Johnny Winter.

He never left the Blues and ultimately founded Pat Ramsey & The Blues Disciples, embarking on a long term gig with the core of Dave Renson on guitar and Steve Howell on drums, with Eloise Davis joining the group on bass a number of years ago. Pat was a regular at Dave's CC Club and the BBC, and played most of the festivals held on the grounds. Pat shared the corner stage with the best of the country's Blues harp players including Charlie Musselwhite, Kim Wilson, Rick Estrin, Mark Hummel and James Harmon. He left a musical legacy among many protégés including his son Clyde, Jason Ricci, and Sean Costello, and the countless musicians throughout the country who have called Pat their friend. He truly was a crowd favorite in Tallahassee and drew some of the largest crowds and the most numerous sold-out shows the BBC has had.

Tallahassee was blessed that Pat called this town home and allowed thousands of people to share his shows and music. Its hard to believe that he has left us. His table top portrait (appropriately signed by dozens of folks who played with Pat over the years) will be on display at the Museum of Florida History from November. 20 through March. It is quite fitting that this Tallahassee legend will be part of the History of the Blues in Florida in the week of his passing. Pat is gone and our hearts are heavy. However, his spirit lives on in all who he touched. Godspeed, Pat.

---

<http://harmonica.over-blog.com/article-24916051.html>

*\*This one is in French, but here's a \*maybe accurate\* translation:*

Pat Ramsey was born in 1953 in the USA in Shreveport.

His death represents for the Blues an enormous loss. His playing and singing were the result of a musical reflection of great quality and great finesse.

He was much more than a singer-harmonica player but a thinker of modern Blues, who was involved in every note knowing leader, stimulate and support.

A master thinker Blues ... which would be major if he had got what he deserved. His official website says that his last words were words of love.

It is a great misfortune for the Blues ...  
Merci Pat. God bless You.

--Alain Messier

---

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## An Elk River Boy made good

POSTED: Tue, November 18, 2008 @ 3:15PM

### Rest in peace, Mr. Ramsey

The music industry and how the masses consume its products are fleeting things. Fame and fortune are not always synonymous with talent. Some are talented and famous. Some are just famous.

But many of the most talented don't get that shot with the big recording contracts and fancy national tours and Top 40 radio won't play what they're selling.

So when Britanny Spears cuts her hair and has some mental-health episode that is irrelevant to any aspect of the average person's life, it's splashed all over the television for weeks. Pat Ramsey died yesterday afternoon and blues fans everywhere mourn his passing. Elsewhere, however, there is nothing but silence and a widening of the great chasm between the American music industry and American music.

Ramsey was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, the same town where Hank Williams rose to stardom, in 1953, the year Williams' died. Pat never got a big break such as the one Hank Williams had on KWKH's "Louisiana Hayride" radio show in Shreveport. Why he didn't, I suppose, doesn't matter anymore, maybe it never did. But the fact remains, many of the most talented musicians in this country are far removed from the umbrella of the music-industry giants.

Pat played in several bands, opened for legends and was a craps dealer in a casino at one time. Many people have stared in awe at his harmonica prowess and many fine musicians have studied his every note.

Among harmonica players, Ramsey was unique. He didn't copy the runs and licks of the great masters, he absorbed music fundamentals he heard on many instruments and combined those into a revolutionary style.

As a young pup, Jason Ricci was so enthralled by Ramsey's style, he moved from his native Maine to Memphis so he could study and digest everything Ramsey played over time. The two became close friends and the revolutionary musical ideas we hear Ricci play today are firmly rooted in what he learned from Ramsey.

"Pat Ramsey is in my book the very first real rock and roll harmonica player to play the blues," Ricci said. "Pat played what he heard those musicians around him do, they were not harp players."

However, Ricci said Ramsey was far more than a music mentor, he also taught Ricci how to be a responsible man.

"What I learned was so much more than scales, licks, and ways to navigate different chord changes. I learned slowly and stubbornly, how to try to start being an accountable human being and take responsibility for my actions at least the ones that were getting me in trouble. I would be nowhere in my music, my life or my sobriety without the guidance of this incredible individual named Pat Ramsey who truly never got his due," Ricci said.

Musically, it's obvious Ricci is rooted in Ramsey. But I noticed something first in the video below of Ramsey, the two have very similar body language on stage.

Those who remember Ramsey can take some solace in the fact that the immortality of one's music is unrelated to the fame and fortunes one experiences in life.

Posterity does not always recall the famous ones, but rarely forgets the spectacular ones. I'm positive people will be talking about Ramsey for years to come and we are now at the beginning of one of many future cycles of rediscovering Pat Ramsey. In this life, death is certain and the only way to achieve immortality on earth is by leaving life with something better than you found it at birth.

Outside of the circles who recognized him for what he was, Ramsey never found fame. His legacy, however, will last. The world did not give him mass fame while alive, but I believe it will grant him immortality in death.

Pat Ramsey



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## Harmonica hero Pat Ramsey leaves behind bereft family, friends, fans

BY KATI SCHARDL • DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER • NOVEMBER 21, 2008

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Even when you think you're prepped to hear grim and shattering news, the reality of it can still rock you to your core.



Pat Ramsey passed away Monday.

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TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

That's surely how friends and fans of harmonica hotshot and blues-meister Pat Ramsey felt when they heard that he had passed from this earthly plane at 3:11 p.m. Monday afternoon. He left this life with grace and courage, according to Steve Howell, who was at Ramsey's side up until the last goodbye.

"His final words were ones of love," Howell noted on Ramsey's Web site ([www.patramsey.com](http://www.patramsey.com)).

We should all be fortunate to be blessed with friends as devoted and compassionate as Howell, who could barely speak through the tears when I spoke with him on the phone earlier this week. He was exhausted physically and emotionally but still wanted to let me know that Pat's passing was

peaceful. Howell, Ramsey's longtime friend and former Crosscut Saw bandmate, said he felt that Pat was ready to go.

That doesn't make it any easier for Howell to accept. As is often the case, those left bereft don't mourn for loved ones who've slipped beyond the reach of earthly pain and suffering — grief blows like a chilly wind through the spaces in the heart left suddenly empty. Our sadness is for ourselves.

"Just when you think you're cried out and can't possibly shed another tear, the floodgates open," Howell noted on the Web site. "I love you, my brother. You will be missed."

Howell said plans are in motion for a memorial service. It'll most likely be held Nov. 29 at the Tallahassee Moose Lodge 1075 at 1478 Capital Circle N.W. Stay tuned for details. If you want to contribute to the fund established to help Ramsey's family pay for his medical care, donations can be sent to J.P. Ramsey, P.O. Box 21147, Tallahassee 32316-1147. E-mail Howell at [stevemissy711@comcast.net](mailto:stevemissy711@comcast.net) to find out more.

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