

## Tributes Pour in for the Late Pat O'Toole, Long-Time Alliance President



Photo Credit: David Hanson, Farmers Conservation Alliance

Friends, followers and associates in the vast personal and professional network of the late Patrick O'Toole have flooded the office of the Family Farm Alliance with their condolences, memories, love and respect for the long-time Alliance President.

Mr. O'Toole passed away February 25 at a hospice in Grand Junction, surrounded by his family. Mr. O'Toole suffered a stroke on February 13 at his family's Ladder Ranch, in the Little Snake River Valley on the Wyoming/Colorado border. The ranch has been in his wife Sharon's family since 1881.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Pat O'Toole's obituary.

"The response this week from those who knew Pat has been extraordinary and overwhelming," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen (OREGON). "Our team here at the Family Farm Alliance wanted to share with our members and those we work with a sampling of the wonderful things that people around the country have said about Pat's legacy."

Senator Michael Bennet (D-COLORADO) used over three minutes of his opening remarks earlier this week paying tribute to Pat O'Toole at a hearing before the Senate Agriculture Committee. Check out this [video](#) featuring an exchange about Pat between Senator Bennet, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, and Chair Debbie Stabenow (D-MI).

"It's a great video," said Norm Semanko (IDAHO), the Alliance's General Counsel. "It's hard to explain how outside of normal Congressional protocol that is. Pat was one of a kind."

Other Members of Congress will deliver floor statements next week paying tribute to Mr. O'Toole.

Rod Miller, a columnist for *Cowboy State Daily* (WYOMING) writes, "My old friend Pat O'Toole has ridden on up ahead of the herd to scout a new countryside for water and grass. You can bet your bottom dollar that, when we catch up with him, he will have picked out the perfect spot to rest."

Mr. Miller and *Cowboy State Daily* graciously gave us permission to share "[Remembering Pat O'Toole, Wyoming Visionary](#)". *Cowboy State Daily* also ran this guest column by Cat Urbigkit, titled, "[Finding Beauty in](#)

[Wyoming's Capitol](#)", which closes with a tribute to Mr. O'Toole.

Finally, Jason Peltier, the first chairman of the Family Farm Alliance's Advisory Committee, wrote [this beautiful eulogy](#) for Sharon and the O'Toole family, who asked that it be shared widely.

"In our world of water, like in the whole of life, it is about our fellow man," Mr. Peltier writes. "Our colleagues, the people we strive to help, in the simplest way, our family. As Pat understood the range he understood people."

*Additional coverage of Pat O'Toole's remarkable life will be featured in the March 2024 edition of the Family Farm Alliance "Monthly Briefing". His family is planning a July 2024 memorial service at Ladder Ranch.*

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