

Pat Boone: Legendary Entertainer, All-American Legacy

By Kara Gray

One of the most iconic entertainers of a generation, Pat Boone has bridged more gaps in his career than virtually any other celebrity of our time. Today, his passion for philanthropy, humanitarianism and altruism continues to drive the still-vivacious 76-year-old performer to forego a life of leisurely retirement in pursuit of a more active, engaged and meaningful life.

Pat Boone was a household name in the 1950s and 60s. Having sold more than 50 million albums, and having earned 38 Top 40 hits as a singer, he still holds the Billboard record for spending the most consecutive weeks (220) on the charts with more than one song at a time. Boone made his way into American homes each week as the host of The Pat Boone Chevy Showroom, introducing audiences to this mesmerizing new medium along with hosting fellow performers Andy Williams, Johnny Mathis, Frankie Avalon, Tony Bennett, Ella Fitzgerald and many more. He starred in at least a dozen Hollywood movies and even earned the right to be called a best-selling author with several memoirs and other titles to his credit.

Boone's prolific success combined with his old-fashioned values and boyish good looks earned him iconic status in the early days of the Rock 'n Roll era. He credits his insatiable curiosity and work ethic for opening doors to new opportunities most other celebrities of his era wouldn't likely even consider.

"I've always had a penchant for trying new things, and I've been willing to take on challenges and assignments in my career that you might say were outside the typical job description for someone in the music business," Boone says. Indeed, Boone was a "cross-over" artist and multi-media sensation long before the likes of Taylor Swift were even a speck of DNA.



Pat and Shirley Boone, above, at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California where Pat received the Lifetime Achievement Award from MovieGuide.

Right: Early publicity shot from Pat's first record label, Dot Records. Late 1950's

Throughout his career, Boone has been a pioneer in overcoming multiple barriers, including music genre, media format and even racial divides. In the process, he has successfully inspired an entire generation with his integrity, All-American values and appreciation for the inherent good in his fellow man.

But, beyond his Billboard success and prolific television career, the legacy Pat Boone continues to build today is one of philanthropy, a family focus and the oft-forgotten altruistic notion of lending aid to your fellow man wherever and whenever possible. This passion, which he believes to be a core American value worthy of perpetuating, is what keeps the 76-year-old legendary entertainer working hard today, while some of his contemporaries enjoy a life of leisurely obscurity.

"I was blessed with a voice that others enjoyed hearing, but I've always



felt very normal," Boone says. "I've always felt that my music and television success has been handed to me on a silver platter. Because of this gift, I feel a great responsibility to use this platform for a higher purpose."

This mission has driven Boone to

support a wide range of philanthropic causes, including the annual Pat Boone & Friends Celebrity Golf Tournament benefiting the Bethel Bible Village faith-based family crisis center and the Pat Boone Family Life Center in Tanzania, East Africa that provides health services and clean water to the Masai tribespeople in that parched land. Since 1979, his Pat Boone Foundation has contributed more than \$7 million to charitable causes, supporting more than 30 organizations on a regular basis, including Ryan's Reach, a nonprofit organization dedicated to rehabilitating individuals with traumatic head injuries. The cause is dear to Boone's heart—the foundation is named for his grandson Ryan Corbin, who suffered massive head trauma when he fell 40 feet to a concrete floor in a freak accident in 2001.

Politically, Boone remains a well-known and outspoken conservative—a position that makes him a rare hold-out in the overwhelmingly liberal Hollywood climate. Despite the left-leaning trend, Boone continues to commit his good name, wholesome image and, in many cases, his personal wealth to causes he believes to be righteous, moral—and most importantly—authentic to his traditional values.

The most recent incarnation of this mission is his desire to champion a return to the family dinner table, a tradition of a seemingly bygone era that's been replaced in modern society by fast food, take-out and family members passing like ships in the night as they go their own separate ways.

Families are encouraged to once again gather together over a meal and reconnect, and to support a worthy cause in the process. To aid this process, Boone recently launched a new premium mail-order steak business, Pat Boone All-American Meats. The legacy brand is conceived in the tradition of his good friend Paul Newman's "Newman's Own" line of salad dressings and other food products. Boone's meat business actively supports his

charitable foundation: for every purchase made from Pat Boone All-American Meats, five percent—and often more—goes directly to fund a number of domestic and international charitable organizations that feed the hungry.

"This project perfectly combines several of my natural passions: I love



Pat Boone, surrounded by fans in Akron, Ohio where Pat was competing for the Oil Can Trophy at Akron's Soap Box Derby. Pat was there representing Chevrolet, the sponsor of his #1 rated network television show. Pat came in 1st!

to eat, my wife and I love to invite friends and family over to share a meal together, and I've always wanted to help people in every way I can with the relatively short time I have here on Earth," Boone says. "I'd love to see us equal what Paul [Newman] has done in both the variety of our product offerings and the impact we and our customers make around the world."

With the mantra, "A meal for four can feed 25 more," Pat Boone All-American Meats not only encourages a return to the family dinner table, but supports American ranching families as well. Every cut of the company's filet mignon, rib eye, New York strip, top sirloin and T-bone/porterhouse steaks

are 100% U.S.-raised and derived from only the highest-quality cattle. Boone says this not only makes for better flavor, quality and tenderness than beef traditionally found at the supermarket, but it also contributes to the nation's economy—which most would agree could use all the help it can get.

"I'd much rather be remembered for encouraging families to share good food, happy times, and great memories, and my work to help those in need, than for my music or entertainment career," he says. This is quintessential Pat Boone—a desire to leave an admirable legacy of service to others rather than focus on material wealth.

Helping a neighbor in need, encouraging traditional family values and celebrating the uniquely American experience—Pat Boone has built an eclectic career as a legendary champion of these fundamentally powerful principles. They harken back to a simpler time and a dramatically different way of life than modern generations will likely every know. And, he has no intention of slowing down while there is still work to be done.

"I've put my 55-year reputation and good name on the line with this and so many other worthy causes," Boone says. "To be able to look back and say we fed several million people and possibly saved thousands of

lives would be the most satisfying experience of my whole life. I intend to see to it that we live up to what everyone has come to expect of me."

For more information about Pat Boone All-American Meats, visit www.patboonemeats.com or call 1-866-400-9507. Operators are standing by 24 hours/day Monday through Saturday to answer questions and take orders. The steaks are flash frozen and shipped direct to your door, or may be purchased as gifts and shipped directly to the recipient. Gift cards are also available. Every purchase from Pat Boone All-American Meats is backed by the company's 100% satisfaction guarantee.