

**MSNBC Political Analyst Pat Buchanan reflects on Tim Russert for Keith Olbermann
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Keith Olbermann: I have to ask--with all of his political background, with all of his experience, with his associations with Senator Moynihan, Governor Cuomo, and this almost uncanny supernatural ability to retain information and organize it and call upon it whenever necessary, on the air or off--how did he wind up doing this as his life's work in television as opposed to getting say someone elected President of the United States?

Pat Buchanan: Tim was a--what you would call a transfer student. He worked for Governor Cuomo and Pat Moynihan, was enormously proud of it. And Tim was a real student. I'd come over here sometimes, Keith, on Saturdays and do a little hit in the morning, and I'd often run into Tim and he had his old clothes on and he was coming out and he was smiling. He was a Catholic kid who had done his homework and who was prepared and when he was going to be called on the next day, he was really going to perform. He had a tremendous love for what he was doing, an infectious sense of humor, a tremendous ability, really, to share an inside story which he had picked up.

You know, Howard mentioned that he was a rooted person, a deeply rooted person, that was the Tim I knew. He loved his family, he talked about Maureen, he talked about Luke, he talked about Big Russ, the stories. He talked about the school, the high school he went to up there, he talked about the church. You know, we'd get together often when we'd come up there for those Tuesday nights with you fellows, and he would come on the set and I would be on there with Barnacle and he would start off picking up some part of the altar boys' liturgy and we would have to pick up on it. And he remembered that, and you could tell he was a man that loved where he came from and who he was and the people he came from. And I think he saw himself as really someone who was representing them when he reached the heights that he did.

Clearly, he was a giant of American journalism. You know, we hear that statement often that an institution is but the length and shadow of a single man. *Meet the Press* today is the length and shadow of Tim Russert. You know, I was on the other side during the 90's when I was a candidate a number of times, and you always knew you were going into the batters box against the best. I would be down there in the library here rather than go into the green room so I would be studying and he would come in smiling and "how are you doing, Pat" and "you are debating so-and-so," tell you a story or two or something that was up and then you would go in there. And he threw them hard--he didn't throw them at your head--he threw them hard and high and hit right down the middle. He was as good and tough a questioner as we've got in this business. He turned *Meet the Press* into THE appointment show on Sunday and with due respect to George and to Bob Schieffer, this was the place to be, and this was the show, and it was Tim Russert.

And again, when we were back up there in New York, what you got was that infectious sense of humor, the laughter at what's going on and what people are saying. He delighted in politics. He never got stale or weary or cynical about politics, it was always something fresh and exciting even though I am sure this is way down the road in the number of campaigns.

He was a very memorable man, an unforgettable man