

FNC's *Fox & Friends*

02/17/22

6:30:38 a.m.

8 minutes and 58 seconds

AINSLEY EARHARDT: It is hard to believe but today marks one year since the passing of radio icon, our friend, Rush Limbaugh. I had a chance to sit down with his beautiful wife Kathryn to reflect on his life and his legacy, and what he would think of America today.

RUSH LIMBAUGH: Greetings and welcome back. Rush Limbaugh here behind the golden IMB microphone.

EARHARDT: Thank you so much for welcoming us into your beautiful home. How are you doing? It's been a year now.

KATHRYN LIMBAUGH: I'm doing well for the most part. You know, it's been very difficult, but knowing how many people are out there praying for me, praying for Rush, I very much think this was the nation's loss.

EARHARDT: When we pulled into your driveway and we walked in, I felt his presence. There are so many wonderful symbols of America throughout this house and that was important to him, right?

K. LIMBAUGH: To me, it really represents Rush in so many ways, not because of the grandness of it. That's not really him. It represents success, American freedom.

EARHARDT: I'm sure he always felt like I'm going to be big. God gave me this voice —

R. LIMBAUGH: Rush Limbaugh, with talent on loan from God.

EARHARDT: — but when did it actually happen for him?

K. LIMBAUGH: He would like to say when he was eight and he was broadcasting from his bedroom down to his mother and brother, but the big break probably was New York.

R. LIMBAUGH: As usual, doing this program with half my brain tied behind my back to make it fair.

EARHARDT: What was he like when he was off the air? What were his hobbies?

K. LIMBAUGH: He was always mentally engaged, whether it was watching a television program or reading his iPad. He always said that life is show prep and I think it was very much, in his case.

R. LIMBAUGH: Every day I wake up and the first thing I do is thank God that I did.

EARHARDT: His faith grew later in life and especially toward the end. What — can you describe what his faith was like?

K. LIMBAUGH: Absolutely, he knew there was a much higher plan, a much higher purpose. He believed strongly in his relationship with God.

R. LIMBAUGH: I don't like making things about me but there are going to be days that I'm not going to be able to be here.

EARHARDT: When you hear cancer —

K. LIMBAUGH: Ummhmm.

EARHARDT: — your life changes —

K. LIMBAUGH: Yes.

EARHARDT: — forever. I remember him saying that.

R. LIMBAUGH: Life is the most precious thing we have, especially when right in front of you is the prospect of it being taken away.

K. LIMBAUGH: One of the perks, I guess, of having a diagnosis like this is that you have a little bit of time to hear some of the wonderful eulogies.

DONALD TRUMP [on 02/04/20]: He is the greatest fighter and winner that you will ever meet.

HARRIS FAULKNER [on FNC's *Outnumbered*, 02/17/21]: And we break in now with breaking news as we have learned that longtime conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh has died.

EARHARDT: You were on air immediately sharing that news.

K. LIMBAUGH [on 02/17/21]: It is with profound sadness our beloved Rush passed away this morning. [BACK PRESENT] I wanted them to hear that devastating news in the most familiar way possible. I knew this audience would remember where they were when they lost their hero.

EARHARDT: What did you love the most about him, and what do you miss the most?

K. LIMBAUGH: He's one of a kind. He always led us to believe that America's best days are ahead. He would say I'm just a voice on the radio, but he was so much more. I call him America's Winston Churchill.

R. LIMBAUGH [on 02/28/09]: I want the country to survive. I want the country to succeed.

EARHARDT: The impact that your family has on this country — has that hit you?

K. LIMBAUGH: Absolutely. Rush is buried in St. Louis. There's two benches because I thought anyone who goes to visit him would want to talk with him. I happened to be sitting there when out of nowhere a man gave me his rosary that he had brought there to give to Rush and in that time, I felt he's still with us.

EARHARDT: How beautiful.

K. LIMBAUGH: He's living on through these people.

EARHARDT: Is there anything on his bucket list that he wanted to do?

K. LIMBAUGH: For him, the bucket list was continuing to be on the program, continuing to fight for the people that he believed needed a voice.

R. LIMBAUGH: There's a whole lot of people that have not given up, namely you.

EARHARDT: He always knew exactly how to phrase what America was thinking.

K. LIMBAUGH: I really think he was genius-level brilliant.

R. LIMBAUGH: I'm having a good time and that's why they're mad at me, folks.

K. LIMBAUGH: He hardly ever had um, he'd hardly have a pause. He always had the ability to make very complex issues very easy to understand.

R. LIMBAUGH: Of course, I'm going to break it down into many, many details for you.

EARHARDT: You are a wonderful wife. You continue to share your thanks and your love for the people listening.

K. LIMBAUGH: Rush always said that this audience meant everything to him and we want that to carry on and make sure that we continue our American values. That we continue to have pride for our symbols.

EARHARDT: We miss Rush during these times. What would he say about the last year?

K. LIMBAUGH: I think he would be rather furious. He would be upset with — with the United States not being as strong as it has been and should be. I know he would say it's not time to panic.

R. LIMBAUGH: Well, it's never time to panic, folks. It is never, ever going to be time to give up on our country. It'll never be time to give up on the United States. It'll never be time to give up on yourself.

EARHARDT: And you see that flag right there?

STEVE DOOCY: Yeah.

EARHARDT: It's hanging in the foyer of their beautiful home and it was sent to them by a family in the military and they took that flag and they flew it on five different aircraft carriers and they flew it all over the world. It was during one of our wars and they sent the flag to Rush with a letter. Rush contacted the family — became really good friends with the family. They were invited to his birthday party and they have it framed on the other side of the flag around the corner. They have the letter and the pictures of the flag on different aircraft carriers framed there.

BRIAN KILMEADE: Wow. That —

EARHARDT: You would love the house because lots of different oil paintings of presidents.

KILMEADE: — yeah.

EARHARDT: He loved country.

DOOCY: He was a real patriot.

EARHARDT: It's obvious when you walk into their home. And Kathryn was an Adams, which traces back to President Adams —

KILMEADE: Wow.

EARHARDT: — our second president. So they, together, were just such a powerful couple doing so much for other people. They have a scholarship fund.

DOOCY: Sure.

EARHARDT: If you or your children want to apply for one of the scholarships — if you have the same vision for our country that Rush and Kathryn do, you can go to his website. It is officialrushlimbaugh.com. And you'll see an opportunity — you can read about his biography, the foundation, the store, and just more about his life. It's beautiful.

DOOCY: That report was great —

EARHARDT: Thank you.

DOOCY: — because it was so much about Rush and it reminds us how much we miss him.

EARHARDT: Yes.

DOOCY: And, you know, a lot of us, when we were driving around after noon, before 3:00, would turn, and wherever you were there were always radio stations that you could listen to him with this EIB network. But he was so good at not only teaching people about obscure things that

the government was doing — do you know what's going on with taxes and tariffs, and things like that? And then he would break it down so that anybody could understand it. But he was a great broadcaster and an amazing entertainer and that's why people tuned in for decades because he — he educated us but he entertained us.

EARHARDT: He was brilliant. He really was. I mean, he cared about capitalism and the Constitution, freedom. He loved other people and she actually took me upstairs to their bedroom, which is where he wanted to pass away, and that's where he took his last breath and I walked into the room and I thought should I kneel down and say a prayer? Do I — you know, how do I react to this? Because you feel that — the weight of that and what this man gave to our country and our nation and he truly had a vision and God gave him so many blessings, even at an early age.

DOOCY: Yeah.

EARHARDT: And he just comes from such a nice family. We're all friends with David, his brother and his niece Christen works here at Fox. And we just — our hearts go out to them today. Kathryn said that she — she might end up going to St. Louis to — to see the grave today. She'll go there and just sit sometimes and people will come up to her and introduce themselves. So, I just — such a legacy he leaves behind.

KILMEADE: And they had Rush listening rooms. I mean, people used to get together —

EARHARDT: Yeah.

KILMEADE: — for three hours and listen to the radio, almost like the 1920s. Meanwhile, there's an opportunity to see the whole thing, right?

EARHARDT: Yes. You can go to FoxNation.com. It's available now. You can watch the entire interview. We sat down together for, I want to say, about two hours.

DOOCY: Wow.

KILMEADE: Terrific. All right, that'll be great. Another reason to get Fox Nation. And we'll see that again in an hour, right?

EARHARDT: That's right.

KILMEADE: Great.