



# The Real Randy Travis

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In 2013, Randy Travis [had a stroke](#) so severe that doctors thought he was not long for this world.

Yet his life wasn't over. And although he remains partly incapacitated, his career, amazingly, wasn't over either: his wife Mary tours with him, and voice-cloning technology is helping him create songs with a Randy Travis timbre.

When things were at their worst, Mary rejected the doctors' prognosis because, as she says, her husband was still fighting.

"There was never a doubt in Randy's mind that he could make it through it. It was that magical moment that I went to his bedside when they said, 'We need to pull the plug. He's got too many things going against him at that point.' He had gotten a staph infection and three other hospital-born bacterial viruses ... one thing after another. And the doctors were just saying, 'He just doesn't have the strength to get through this.' ...

"That's when I went to him. That was the moment that I knew that Randy Travis was gonna make it because he squeezed my hand and a tear went down his face. And I said, 'He's still fighting.'"

Mary Travis praises artificial intelligence.

Along with musician friends, AI is helping her husband complete lyrics and is simulating his voice so that he can, indirectly, sing again.

The technology is guided by a human attention to nuance, and Randy himself obviously feels that [what is being created](#) conveys his spirit.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.