



## **Matt Walsh**

**Founder | CEO | Owner  
The Observer Media Group, Inc.**

Matt Walsh is the founder, CEO and owner of The Observer Media Group Inc. After the company's start in 1995 with the purchase of the Longboat Observer, Walsh, his late wife and partner, Lisa Walsh, and their team have grown the company through startups and acquisitions to include seven newspapers, four websites; four lifestyle magazines and multiple social media channels published around Florida. The company has 90 employees.

The company's newspapers include the Longboat Observer, Sarasota-Siesta Key Observer and East County Observer; the Business Observer; the 110-year-old West Orange Times and Observer and Southwest Orange Observer near Orlando; and the 115- year-old Jacksonville Daily Record.

The company's publications reach more than 432,920 readers a week. Before acquiring the Longboat Observer, Walsh served as assistant business editor at The Miami Herald; editor of Florida Trend magazine; Southeast Bureau Manager for Forbes magazine; and editor of newspapers in Independence, Mo., and Brookings, S.D.

Walsh is a co-founder of the Gulf Coast CEO Forum and has served on numerous not-for-profit and industry boards. In 2018, the Sarasota EDC awarded Walsh the Clyde Nixon Leadership Award. In 2019, he was inducted into the Florida Press Association Hall of Fame. In January, the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce honored Walsh with the Spirit of Sarasota Award.

A native of St. Louis, Walsh is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism. Walsh has been a resident of Florida for 44 years.

Walsh has three children — Emily, president of the Observer Media Group; Kate, principal and co-owner of a 450-student ballet school in Colorado Springs; and Major Brian Walsh, deputy G2 Operations Officer of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp LeJeune, N.C. He has five grandchildren.