

Comedian shares recovery story after suffering a stroke in 2025

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It was a seemingly normal day for Plymouth resident Brett Williams on June 5, 2025. He had just finished a day of work and began preparing for the senior graduation party at Eden Prairie High School later that night, where he was scheduled to do an improv performance.

The celebratory evening quickly turned serious when the audience witnessed Williams unexpectedly collapse on stage. Without hesitation, first responders rushed on stage to assist the unresponsive comedian, who was then taken to a nearby hospital for lifesaving treatment.

After hours in surgery, his doctors informed his loved ones that the then 59-year-old had suffered a massive stroke that nearly took his life. His wife Diane Williams — whom he had married just seven months before



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Brett Williams

his stroke occurred — wasn't present at the time of his collapse. But, she woke up to a frantic knock at the door later that evening.

"I was at home asleep and they were trying to call me and I had my phone on vibrate, so I

never heard a phone call. His best friend Ryan was one of the people performing with him and I heard this frantic knock on the door at about 2:30 in the morning and I thought it was Brett forgetting his keys," Diane says. "So I got up, feeling

a little annoyed, and I opened the door and it was Ryan. He was just saying all these words I couldn't process. 'Brett had a stroke. It's really bad. I'm driving you to the hospital.'"

When they arrived at the hospital, the medical

team told her words she'll never forget: Brett may never wake up. Unsure of what the future held, Diane spent every moment she could by his side as she waited for a clearer picture from his doctors.

Brett spent the entire month of June in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital, where doctors placed him in a medically induced coma as his body fought to survive.

"As soon as they decided that he was ready to wake up, they'd play around with the sedation, and then sometimes his vitals would skyrocket because [of] the pressure in his head and then his blood pressure and everything," Diane says. "So it was sort of a dance, like a back and forth. But by the end of June, he was awake and he was responding to me with very intentional blinking."

Diane recalls doctors

downplaying Brett's blinking, categorizing it as a reflexive response instead of an attempt to communicate with her. But she continued to advocate for him, even when it contradicted the explanations given by his medical staff.

In July, after spending one month in the ICU, Brett was then transferred to Regency Hospital in Golden Valley — a critical illness recovery hospital for patients facing serious medical conditions or intensive care — to assist with weaning him off his ventilator.

Diane had to make the difficult decision for doctors to perform a tracheostomy and attach a feeding tube.

"I had to make the decision to have a trach put in him when he was still in the coma. They said he can't stay on the ventilator any longer, but he's not ready to breathe on his own. If we do the

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By summer, Congress moved from resistance to declaration. After Richard Henry Lee proposed independence, a committee drafted a formal statement. Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft, and Congress revised it before adoption on July 4, 1776.

The Declaration of Independence did several things at once. It announced a political break with Britain. It justified that break through a list of grievances. Most famously, it made a philosophical claim that would outlive the war itself: governments derive "their just powers from the consent of the governed." That sentence did not describe a finished democracy in 1776; the nation remained deeply unequal and enslaved. But it established a standard by which later generations would judge the country.

That is part of the Declaration's enduring force. It was both a war document and a measuring stick.

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