



## Mr. Walter Gerald Irwin, Jr.

March 30, 1947 - July 19, 2021

Walter Gerald Irwin, Jr., 74, of Columbia, died Monday, July 19, 2021. Born March 30, 1947, in Columbia, he was a son of Colonel Walter G. Irwin, US Army (Ret.) and Lenora Peake Irwin.

Mr. Irwin had the unique opportunity to travel both domestically and abroad growing up. He graduated from Orleans American High School and celebrated his senior prom at the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. Walter attended the University of South Carolina, where he earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Prior to his retirement, he was employed for over four decades with SCANA. Walter was also a licensed private pilot and enjoyed flying when he had the opportunity.

Walter loved his family tremendously and would do anything to help anyone. He had a love for tinkering with cars and attended the Grand Prix while living in France. On another adventure while visiting Spain, he participated as a runner during the famous Running of the Bulls. During his time working at SCANA, he won SCANA's Presidents Award several times and his coworkers joked that the award would one day be named after him. Walter was also known as a disco king and could tear up the dance floor with his wife, Mary Pat. He was a big fellow but a marshmallow inside, with a heart of gold.

Survivors include his devoted wife of 49 years, Mary Pat Irwin; daughter, Katharine Lenora Irwin of Columbia; sister, Cheryl Irwin of Charleston; brother, Michael Irwin (Susan) of Columbia and his brother-in-law, Burnie Hook of Columbia. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Karen Hook.

The family will receive friends from 6 until 8 o'clock, Thursday, July 22nd at Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, 7600 Trenholm Road Ext., Columbia, SC 29223.

A family graveside service will be held at Elmwood Cemetery.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Elmwood Cemetery**

501 Elmwood Ave  
Columbia, SC, 29201

**JUL**

**22**

**Visitation**

06:00PM - 08:00PM

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Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel  
7600 Trenholm Road Extension, Columbia, SC, US, 29223

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Shives Funeral Home** - July 22 at 01:53 PM

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“ Walt, what a wonderful person. Always ready to help someone out even before they asked, just like his father. Great fellow, great family.

**Frank Capretti** - July 31 at 03:31 PM

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“ Walter was such a unique individual and wonderful brother-in-law. He was a big influence as I grew up, teaching me things every teenager in South Carolina needs to know: how to shoot a gun, how to drive a jeep, how to properly eat a Whopper, how to work hard in the country and how to throw an epic Halloween party. He was always surrounded by some of the finest, funniest and hardest working people anyone could hope for.

His relationship with my entire family was so special: he was always loving, funny and the first to jump in and help no matter what needed to be done. Watching Pat and Walter's marriage throughout the years was another model for me. Seeing the love between "Bear" and 'Bear" was so nice. His love for Kate was unmatched.

Each Christmas brought a bit of anticipation as we all waited to see what 'gift' Walter gave my mother. Would it be coal? yes.. Would it be 'cigar earrings' yes. Would it be a cartridge in a bare tree? yes.

Walter was loved and will be missed by everyone.

**Richard Bailey** - July 23 at 11:03 AM



“ All so true Richard

**mike irwin** - July 24 at 08:17 PM

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“ Love: Richard, Melissa, and Bryan purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Walter Gerald Irwin, Jr..



Love: Richard, Melissa, and Bryan - July 22 at 06:54 PM

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“ Mary Pat and family, please accept my deepest condolences on Walter's passing. It truly was a pleasure working with him for several years at SCANA. He was a good man who was liked by all. May he rest in peace. Be blessed.  
Pat Hudson

Pat Hudson - July 22 at 06:28 PM

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“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Walter Gerald Irwin, Jr..



July 21 at 07:51 PM

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“ Mark and Kate Ferguson purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Mr. Walter Gerald Irwin, Jr..



Mark and Kate Ferguson - July 21 at 06:08 PM

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“ Just wanted to share one of many, many great memories we had with Walter (snapper) as we called him. He would come out to the family property in Elgin when we were kids , we would ride the creek roads and up and down the hills that wined back to the old pond in his Jeep that we took turns driving. Then we would target practice with one of his new toys!!! Then around Christmas he'd come out and get cedar to carry home to Uncle Jerry,Aunt Lenora, Karen, Cheryl and Mike. One of many memories that will be treasured !!! My deepest sympathy to Mary Pat and Katherine. God Bless Us All ... Your cousin Jim Peake

**Jim Peake** - July 21 at 03:47 PM

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“ Mary Pat and Katharine, I am so sorry for your loss and you are and have been in my thoughts and prayers. My memories of Walter are a man larger than life and may his love and memories always live within you.

**Mary Cuff Plante** - July 21 at 02:01 PM

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“ I've worked with Walter since 1991. It didn't take long for us to become buddies. We both enjoyed smoking a good cigar in his Chevy diesel pickup truck as we headed to tackle a perceived environment disaster (lol). No doubt that diesel pickup that had 300,000 miles back then is probably still parked and ready to go in his driveway. The thing I admired most about Walter besides his choice of a good cigar was his candor. You alway knew where you stood with Walter. He was always so proud of his daughter's ability to do ballet so well. Considering Walter was as graceful as one legged duck. Most of us called Walter, Bubba and in return he called his friends at work Bubba. Walter "Bubba" Irwin will be missed.  
My condolences to the family.  
Mark Passerini

**Mark Passerini** - July 21 at 01:53 PM

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“ I wanted to share this picture of my dad. It's my absolute favorite and I will miss him dearly. An absolute stand up man and the greatest father I could have ever been blessed with. I will love you forever



**Katharine** - July 21 at 01:03 PM

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“ Mary Pat and family,

I am so sorry to hear of Walter's passing. Please accept my heartfelt condolences and may his memory bring you all great comfort

Kathy Houghtaling

**Kathy Houghtaling** - July 21 at 12:59 PM

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“ I first met Walter, when I was 14, on move-in day at the Harid Conservatory's 2004 summer intensive. Walter and Mary-Pat just arrived, with Kate, in their famous Crown Victoria to drop Kate off for a summer of intense ballet training. Little did I know, that would be the start of a deep and meaningful friendship with the Irwins and I would see that Crown Victoria many times again. Kate became one of my closest friends and Walter and Mary-Pat welcomed me as family. Walter was particularly special, in that he was able to be a father figure while still being loads of fun.

His sense of humor could make anyone crack a smile. We would always lightheartedly poke fun at each other- he was both hilarious and a great sport. I'll miss our texts- whether we were poking fun at each's politics or he was asking me to call Kate because she was having a rough day.

The thing that I will remember him for most- is how much he loved Kate. It was the shining example of unconditional love and compassion. He was an amazing father, who wanted nothing more than for Kate to be happy. He loved anyone and anything that brought joy to her life.

I'm grateful for the time we spent together and will cherish the memories. I know for years to come, the thought of him will make me smile.

**Spencer B** - July 21 at 11:30 AM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Mr. Walter Gerald Irwin, Jr..



July 21 at 10:11 AM

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“ The loss of one's parents, then their siblings, is a sad thing on the path of life as we get older. My brother Walter was the de facto patriarch of the family after the passing of our dad. Walt was an interesting combination of gruffness, generosity, kindness, caring and an oftentimes wicked sense of humor. He never complained about his illness and was very matter of fact about it to the end. Yes, he will be missed.....but he will also be remembered fondly for his upstanding and honest character.

**Cheryl his sister** - July 21 at 09:38 AM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Walter Gerald Irwin, Jr..



July 21 at 08:45 AM

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“ Walter was my older brother, even though there were 10yrs difference in our age. He always spent time with me. He was a mentor, and a father figure, since our dad was deployed alot. There are not enough words to express the loss, and sorrow I feel for loosing such a great brothet, friend, and mentor.I will miss him....

**mike irwin** - July 20 at 05:52 PM

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“ Walt was a wonderful brother-in-law and a trusted adviser on a wide variety of topics. I will miss him tremendously. We had many lunches with mary pat and karen at palmetto pig. All my love to mary pat and katherine. Burney

**Burney Hook** - July 20 at 02:31 PM