



## Joseph Knipe Irwin

April 10, 1951 - October 23, 2025

On October 23rd, 2025, at 6:01 P.M., Joseph Knipe Irwin embarked on one final flight.

Joe was born in Estherville, IA to Marilyn Knipe and William Irwin on April 10th, 1951. After spending his childhood in multiple states and cities, he found himself in Plainview, MN, where he attended Plainview High School, graduating with the class of 1969. Joe was very active in athletics of all kinds, and it is there that he met his high school sweetheart, Cathy Harlan, whom he would marry on May 6th, 1972.

In 1970, Joe enlisted into the United States Air Force where he served his country proudly in the Vietnam war, and was honorably discharged, holding the rank of Sergeant.

Not only was Joe a determined businessman, he was active in the Boy Scouts of America where he obtained his Order of the Arrow, Wood Badge, and served as Troop Leader for Troop 166, sponsored by First Presbyterian Church. He was a legendary pilot and flight instructor, becoming more active with charity flights after his retirement from Ryerson Steel.

He was also an avid car aficionado and a jack of all trades...if something needed to be fixed, he could fix it, or at least he would pay someone to fix it.

Joe was a man of the utmost integrity, honesty, and character. If you needed anything, you could depend on him.

Although he took his last flight solo, he was surrounded by his loving wife, Cathy, and his four sons Eric, Matthew, Timothy, and Patrick, when he took off.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, sister-in-law Shari Irwin, and brother in-law Rick McGrath. Joe is survived by his wife Cathy, four sons Eric (Kathy), Matt (Meghan), Tim, and Patrick, grandchildren Emily, Annika, and Miles, sisters Jane (Pat) Davitt, Nancy (Craig) Troester, brother Bill Irwin, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A visitation will be held at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home on Monday, Oct. 27 from 5-7pm, with a memorial service Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 2:00pm held at First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville, NC.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Boy Scouts of America, Troop 166 or The Capital Building Fund of First Presbyterian Church.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Irwin family. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.cavin-cook.com](http://www.cavin-cook.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Cavin-Cook FH & Crematory

494 E. Plaza Drive  
Mooresville, NC 28115

# Previous Events

## Receiving Friends

OCT **27**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home  
494 E. Plaza Drive  
Mooresville, NC 28115

## Memorial Service

OCT **28**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church  
249 W. McLelland Ave.  
Mooresville, NC 28115

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ *Irwin Family (Annika) -*

*We are so blessed to have Joseph's granddaughter Annika, a part of our lives. Her kind heart and character is a testament to what a wonderful family you have established. Please know that in your time of grief, our family is lifting you up in prayer, and wrapping you up in love and light.*

*May your memories bring you peace.*

*The Ludowese Family  
David, Bre, Cameren, & Alex*

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**BreAnn L. Silfverston** - October 27, 2025 at 05:32 PM



“ Our hearts go out to Cathy and family ...

*The back roads of southern Minnesota will always carry the echo of Joe’s laughter. We were more than just high school best friends; we were buddies cruising those country lanes under endless skies, those late-night drives marking the chapters of our youth. From those joyful, carefree nights, our lives blossomed—each of us marrying our high school sweethearts.*

*Joe then took his adventurous spirit into service, heading off to the Air Force. His life became a vibrant journey of raising kids, taking to the skies with flying, and sharing a love for cool cars. He lived a full, heartfelt life, rooted in the deep connections we forged back then.*

*His passing leaves a quiet spot in the world, a space where his unique energy and friendship used to be. But the memories—the cruising, the commitment, and the pure joy of knowing Joe—will keep his spirit driving on with us, forever a part of the landscape of our lives.*

*Dean & Mary Johnson*

*A donation to First Presbyterian Church - Mooresville was made in remembrance of Joe*

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**Dean Johnson** - October 27, 2025 at 04:35 PM

SL

“ Sennebogen LLC purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Joseph Knipe Irwin.



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**Sennebogen LLC** - October 27, 2025 at 10:11 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Joseph Knipe Irwin.*



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October 26, 2025 at 05:04 PM



“ *Mike and Kim Istvanovich planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Knipe Irwin.*

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**Mike and Kim Istvanovich** - October 26, 2025 at 05:04 PM



“ *My cousin Joe.... I'm so glad Jim and I were able to go to Iowa and spend quality time together. I felt a special connection with Joe during that time, especially at the KNIPE museum. His personality was so much like my dad's. So sorry dear family for your loss. My heart, love and prayers are with all of you, and especially Cathy.*  
*Diane Hardin*

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**Diane Hardin** - October 26, 2025 at 04:10 PM



“ *Melissa & Josh Davitt And Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Joseph Knipe Irwin.*



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**Melissa & Josh Davitt And Family** - October 26, 2025 at 02:23 PM

RW

“ So very sorry for your loss-lifting you in our prayers & sending a big hug Cathy. Love & prayers, Randy & Cindy Wiggins

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**Randy & Cindy Wiggins** - October 26, 2025 at 01:52 PM

JI

“ James Irwin purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joseph Knipe Irwin.



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**James Irwin** - October 26, 2025 at 12:01 PM

JI

“ James Irwin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joseph Knipe Irwin.

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**James Irwin** - October 26, 2025 at 12:01 PM