



Ernest Leopold Irish

May 8, 1929 - March 15, 2022

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Ernest Leopold “Ernie” Irish, 92, passed away peacefully at his home in LaPlata, MD on Tuesday, March 15. He was born in Standish, Maine on May 8, 1929 to Ernest A. and Leona M. Paquette Irish. He is predeceased by his two older brothers, Calvin and Eugene and a younger sister, Esther, all of Standish, ME.

Ernie graduated from Standish High School in May of 1947 and enlisted in the United States Air Force into the Institute of Technology program. He graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1964.

Ernie’s first marriage was to Audry L. Sease of Bellingham, WA from March 2, 1951 to June 15, 1972. He is survived by two sons: Michael A. and Roberta Irish of Ocean City, MD and Ernest E. and Myoung-ja Irish of Walnut Creek CA, and is predeceased by daughter Patti L. Rolfe. Also surviving him are five grandchildren.

Ernie’s second marriage was to Margaret “Peggy” Jones Lawrence of Washington Daviess, IN from August 21, 1973 until her death on December 28, 2001. He survived by four stepsons: Blake and Mary Lawrence of Rocky Mount, NC, Warren and Barbara Lawrence of Fredericksburg, VA, Paul and Anne Lawrence of Alexandria, VA and Dana and Lucy Lawrence of Ashland,

VA. Also surviving him are sixteen grandchildren and twenty-three great grandchildren.

Ernie's third marriage was to Madelyn P. Griffith of White Plains, MD from April 26, 2003 until her death on January 23, 2018. Madelyn had two children by a previous marriage: John Griffith of Bethesda, MD and Sarah Kurtz of Lancaster, PA.

In August of 1975, Ernie retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel after serving for twenty-eight years and three months. Following his retirement from the U.S. Air Force, he was employed for nine years at MILCOM Systems Corp supporting the Naval Electronics Systems Command engineering and development of new communications systems. As well as one year at JAYCOR supporting the planning of a new computerized communications system for the U.S. Army Computer Systems Command, and five years at TRACOR providing external communications systems engineering and maintenance support to the Naval Engineering System Engineering Activity's AEGIS missile cruiser/destroyer program.

His interests included hunting, fishing, historical genealogy society, boating, and flying as he had his pilots license. He was a life member of the Solomon's Island Yacht Club, serving on the board of Directors for several years and was Commodore in 1984. From 1997-2000, he served on the Board of Directors of the St. Mary's County Chapter of the American Red Cross and two years as Chairman of the Financial Development Committee. He also was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution since 1997, serving in many capacities including the local Chapter President for three years, President of the Maryland Society SAR in 2007, and a National Trustee in 2009. He was also a life member of the Military Officers Association of America, a member of the Mayflower Society as a descendant of Henry Samson, and a member of the Historical and Genealogical Societies of Charles County, MD.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the wounded warriors project or an organization of your choice.

Ernie will have a visitation followed by a service at Raymond Funeral Chapel

on July 12,2022 at 10am, then be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on July 13, 2022 at 2:15pm.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Raymond Funeral Chapel
5635 Washington Ave.
La Plata, MD
business.office@raymondfuneral.com
<http://www.raymondfuneralservice.com>

Service

JUL 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Raymond Funeral Chapel
5635 Washington Ave.
La Plata, MD
business.office@raymondfuneral.com
<http://www.raymondfuneralservice.com>

Burial

JUL 13. 2:15 PM (ET)

Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, VA

Tribute Wall



“ *Ernest Leopold Irish*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Ernest Leopold Irish*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *Hello Michael Irish, I was in contact with Ernie several times in 2004 about the Hayes family of Charles Co. MD. Would you or someone else in the family have his research or if copies were available somewhere ? Greatly appreciate hearing from you. Jim Dempsey, jdempsey2@fuse.net May 2023*

Jim Dempsey - May 14, 2023 at 06:29 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Ernie's Album*



Mike Irish - May 15, 2022 at 01:20 PM

MI

“ 18 files added to the album Ernie's Album



Mike Irish - May 09, 2022 at 01:05 PM

TR

“ Ernie was my back door neighbor for many years. We became friends when we became a united effort to rescue and re-home 14 feral cats and kittens that lived in the bushes of the homes on the alley between his house and mine. Ernie loved the cats and kittens. He became particularly fond of two, Patches, and Smokey, and when they were rescued he missed them so much he insisted on having them both brought back to the alley, because he couldn't do without them. Unfortunately, Patches had already become accustomed to her new home but Smokey's foster home agreed to bring him back to Ernie. Smokey continued to live on the Alley and Ernie continued to keep him supplied with food, and very comfortable outdoor shelter. I tell you that cats belly was so full it practically drug the ground! Ernie loved him so. When Ernie could no longer feed Smokey himself he made sure that his in-home nurses kept him supplied with his daily feedings. Ernie will be missed in our neighborhood, and I will always remember the Ernie I knew before he got sick. God bless all friends and family members and just know that God will hold you close as you mourn.

terri Ritter - March 22, 2022 at 06:25 PM

MI

Thanks, Terri, for being his friend and neighbor and sharing your comments about the cats! Ernie enjoyed your company and he and the family really enjoyed the rum cakes you made and brought to his house!

He loved pets. Growing up we had dogs, cats and horses. We had a muscular dog named Duke. One day, Duke was in the living room looking out the picture window. He saw a cat outside and made a beeline towards the front door, which was open. He caught his paw in the Christmas tree wiring and tore through the screen door dragging the Christmas tree behind him.

When he was stationed in Colorado Springs, we built a barn behind the house. We had horses, that we took on trail rides in the mountains and won ribbons at gymkhanas.

Mike Irish - April 23, 2022 at 01:02 PM

TR

Wow Mike! Just seeing this, As I came to the page to check times etc. for tomorrow. Ernie had an outstanding life from everything I have read and heard! Mckayla and I will see you guys tomorrow.

terri ritter - July 11, 2022 at 04:22 PM