



John Robert Irwin

May 21, 1958 - December 21, 2023

John Robert Irwin, 65 died on December 21, 2023, at his home in Morrilton, Arkansas. The eldest of seven children, he was born to Robert E. “Doc” and Sylvia Irwin on May 21, 1958. He was preceded in death by his parents, his mother-in-law Rose Beck, his stepfather Russell Riggs, and his infant niece. John graduated from Russellville High School in 1976 and joined the United States Navy that summer. While in the Navy he served on the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk, the U.S.S. Tarawa and explored Southern California and often spoke of his adventures with a great fondness. After, he graduated from Arkansas Tech University followed by his matriculation from the University of Arkansas, School of Law in 1995. He was licensed to practice law later that year and practiced until his death.

John’s zeal for life was evident. He had many interests, foremost of which were hunting and fishing, reading and bird watching, playing golf and listening to music. He loved playing golf with friends and family and although he was fairly accomplished on the links, we suspect it was the friends and family he loved the most. At least, that is how he made us feel. His love for music was immense and his tastes were sophisticated and varied. His recall of artists, song and album titles and trivia was encyclopedic.

In 1989 he made the best decision of his life when he married his girlfriend, Jan Beck. What a pair! Together they reared their wonderful son, Joshua, whom John adored and held in awe. They also raised some of the finest dogs in dog history and he doted over them as if they were children. Although the

path was rarely straight or even, his love and devotion to Jan was exemplary. John was also a wonderful big brother. He was always available and most times he would make things better. He was a trusted mentor and a steadfast friend no matter how dire the circumstance. He loved his brothers and sisters, and his house was always a welcome place for us all.

John is survived by his wife and son, and six siblings: Martin Irwin (Roxy), Ann Irwin (Jill Duvall), Lee Irwin, Nancy Cozart (Andy), Seth Irwin (Carolyn), and Brian Irwin (Arthur Stewart).

A celebration of life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, December 29, at the Harris Chapel. The family will receive friends one hour prior to service. Arrangements are by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **29**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Harris Funeral Homes - Morrilton
1325 Oak St
Morrilton, AR 72110
(501) 354-4575

Celebration of Life

DEC **29**. 2:00 PM (CT)

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1325 Oak St
Morrilton, AR 72110
(501) 354-4575

Tribute Wall

PM

“ Pat, Preston, and Mallory planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Robert Irwin.

Pat, Preston, and Mallory - December 30, 2023 at 11:37 AM

EC

“ Please accept my most sincere sympathy to the Irwin family. I had the pleasure of working with John on a number of cases over the years. He was always a zealous advocate for his clients and a true gentleman to the Court and all those involved. I will miss him and please know that my family will keep you all in our prayers. God bless you.
Judge Ed Clawson

Ed Clawson - December 29, 2023 at 10:28 AM

SH

Sorry for loss of John he was a great friend as the whole Irwin family is of Family and friends of J.T & Margaret, Shirley Freeman our prayers love an thoughts are with you all so sorry to hear about Mr John

Shirley freeman Hurst - May 22, 2024 at 05:02 PM

DR

“ Jan and Josh,
God bless you and wrap you in His comfort and care during this very difficult time. We are always here if you need anything.
Greg and Debbie Roberson

Debbie Roberson - December 29, 2023 at 07:33 AM



“ *Red & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of John Robert Irwin.*



December 28, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of John Robert Irwin.*



December 28, 2023 at 05:08 PM



“ *John was an amazing man. He helped so many people with their criminal cases. He treated me with respect. He was a hero and will be missed. Robert Tellez*

Robert Tellez - December 28, 2023 at 02:36 PM



“ *Benton County Public Defenders Office purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of John Robert Irwin.*



Benton County Public Defenders Office - December 28, 2023 at 02:00 PM



“ *White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of John Robert Irwin.*



December 27, 2023 at 01:46 PM



“ *Sincere condolences to this wonderful sweet family. You all are near and dear to my heart. May God give you peace, comfort and joy as you reflect on the memories you have of John. God Bless.*
From Vanessa Burton

Vanessa Burton - December 24, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of John Robert Irwin.*



December 24, 2023 at 09:03 AM



“ *Marla Hill & Dawn Harris planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Robert Irwin.*

Marla Hill & Dawn Harris - December 24, 2023 at 09:03 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White was purchased for the family of John Robert Irwin.



December 23, 2023 at 11:41 AM



“ Josh and Jan, my heart aches for the loss of one of the good guys. Our community suffers that loss as well. I will treasure the time with him at MCC where he always made a hard game much more bearable! I will be out of town for his life celebration but my thoughts will be there. God bless you and family during this time and RIP JOHN-BOY 🙏💔. SHOE

mike shoesmith - December 22, 2023 at 06:40 PM



“ I first met John in January of 2018 when he was assigned to me as a public defender. Our correspondence started off a bit rocky but by the end it all John was in my corner with encouragement and truth. He never sugar coated anything but kept his opinion completely open, honest and real. Because of John's help and a wonderful program he most definitely advocated for; my life has been restored. John touched my life in a way I will cherish forever and will hold him in my memories forever. He touched many lives and sparked hope and change in a world full of helpless hopeless people. You will be missed my friend. RIP John. Until we meet again.

Mattie West - December 22, 2023 at 03:49 PM

MB

“ *Jan and Josh....we were so sad to hear about John. Prayers for you all. Love y'all! Michele Burks and Family*

Michele Burks - December 22, 2023 at 03:32 PM



“ *Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of John Robert Irwin.*



December 22, 2023 at 03:21 PM

EB

“ *God our Father,
Your power brings us to birth,
Your providence guides our lives,
and by Your command we return to dust.*

*Lord, those who die still live in Your presence,
their lives change but do not end.*

*I pray in hope for my family,
relatives and friends,
and for all the dead known to You alone.*

*In company with Christ,
Who died and now lives,
may they rejoice in Your kingdom,
where all our tears are wiped away.
Unite us together again in one family,
to sing Your praise forever and ever.*

Amen.

Eric Bartlett - December 22, 2023 at 02:34 PM

KV

“ Would like to offer our prayers for the family. Was shocked to hear of John's passing. Mainly hung out way back when with his brother Martin. And we lived there Mother she was friends with our Mother Marian.

Kirk and Brenda Vaughn

Kirk Vaughn - December 22, 2023 at 10:32 AM

CH

“ The day John got into it with an Officer at the Court house was the best day ever. He knew he was right and he was trying to get the officer to understand and it got loud....best memory ever. He was a good man and I'm so thankful I got to know him. He will truly be missed. Sending prayers for comfort and strength, just knowing he is at peace and no more pain is a truly a blessing.

Charlotte Heaggans - December 22, 2023 at 07:51 AM

CH

“ Charlotte Heaggans lit a candle in memory of John Irwin



Charlotte Heaggans - December 22, 2023 at 07:39 AM

MH

“ Sending our deepest condolences to all of you with prayers for comfort and love!
Michael and Meredith Schubert Heflin, Sr.



Meredith Schubert Heflin - December 21, 2023 at 08:39 PM

MH

“ I remember him as a little baby, I would go have coffee with Sylvia in the morning, she was a wonderful mother to all their sweet children as was Doc , a great father! I loved this whole wonderful family 🙏 Marilyn Shinn Hill

marilyn Hill - December 21, 2023 at 06:57 PM



“ Springtime Wishes was purchased for the family of John Robert Irwin.



December 21, 2023 at 06:46 PM

KD

“ Thoughts and prayers to the family during this time. 🙏🙏🙏

Kelly Davis - December 21, 2023 at 06:38 PM

KF

“ Jan and Josh We are so sorry to hear of John's death. May God's peace and grace be with you.

Kay Fougousse - December 21, 2023 at 06:35 PM

DC

“ Sending love, hugs and prayers to Jan, Josh and the Irwin siblings. David and I are so very sad for your loss.
David & Jaynie Clark

David & Jaynie Clark - December 21, 2023 at 06:35 PM

RG

“ *Jan and Josh, I am so sorry for your loss. I will always remember John for his stories. And his amazing vocabulary when making opening or closing statements and arguments. He loved you both. We will be keeping all of you lifted in much prayer to our merciful Lord who will give you strength to endure during this time. Ron and Liz Goates*

Ron and Liz Goates - December 21, 2023 at 06:12 PM