



Walter "Skip" George Irvine Jr.

January 11, 1956 - December 7, 2024

Walter "Skip" George Irvine Jr.

January 11, 1956 – December 7, 2024

Walter George Irvine Jr., affectionately known as Skip, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his wife and daughters on December 7, 2024, in Upper Gwynedd, Pennsylvania. Born on January 11, 1956, in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, Skip lived a life full of love, laughter, and purpose.

Skip attended Temple University and graduated magna cum laude from Rosemont College. His career was distinguished by his leadership, hard work and dedication: he was Executive Director for Senator John Heinz, a Director of Public, Community, and Global Relations for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and a Director of Global Human Health Communications at Merck for 23 years.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Skip dedicated himself to his community and his faith. For 27 years, he was a beloved presence at St. Christopher's Church, teaching Sunday school and confirmation classes, serving on the vestry, being a chalice bearer on the altar, and leading the annual Thanksgiving turkey carving. His generosity extended to his roles as Vice President of the Lower Merion Paid Men's Pension Fund and Director on the Board of the Gladwyne Fire Company.

Skip's greatest joy and achievement was his family. A devoted husband to Carol and father to his daughters Kay and Grace, Skip took immense pride in being their anchor, confidant, and cheerleader. Skip cherished every moment spent celebrating life's milestones with them and his expansive network of friends. Whether sharing a good meal, discussing politics, cheering on Philadelphia sports teams, or traveling the globe, Skip embraced life with enthusiasm and humor. His knack for impressions and jokes brought smiles to everyone he met, lifting spirits and forging bonds that lasted a lifetime.

Skip is survived by his wife, Carol, his daughters, Kay and Grace (and her fiancé James Kelly), and his sister, Frances C. Wheaton. He is predeceased by his parents, Frances Kane Irvine and Walter G. Irvine Sr.

The Irvine Family invites you to a memorial service honoring Skip's life on Monday, December 16, at St. Christopher's Church (226 Righters Mill Road, Gladwyne, PA 19035). The family will receive guests starting at 9:30 to 10:30 am. The memorial service will begin at 11:00 am, followed by a reception to celebrate and share memories together.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to St Christopher's Church fund in support of the poor and needy or a charity of the donor's choice. Donations can be made on their website at <https://saintchristophers.org/> or mailed to the address above.

Skip's legacy of kindness, laughter, and service will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. He will be deeply missed and affectionately remembered.

Previous Events

The family will receive guests

DEC 16. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
226 Righters Mill Road
Gladwyne, PA 19035

Memorial Service

DEC 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
226 Righters Mill Road
Gladwyne, PA 19035

Tribute Wall

MP

“ Dear Carol, Grace and Kay, we are so sorry for your loss. Skip was a great guy and we always enjoyed hanging out with all of you at your pool and the trampoline and having the girls run back and forth between our houses. You all were the best neighbors! May his memory be a blessing. In sympathy, Michele, Michael, Rachel, Abby, Leo and Emma Perlstein

Michele Perlstein - December 16, 2024 at 05:22 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Walter "Skip" George Irvine Jr..



December 16, 2024 at 04:09 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Walter "Skip" George Irvine Jr..

December 16, 2024 at 04:09 PM

BM

“ I had the pleasure of working with Skip in several different capacities over the years, and each time regardless of the stress or complexity he made the task easier, a joy. Among the folks I always looked forward to seeing, because i always felt better after. We will miss him.

Bob McMahon - December 16, 2024 at 03:37 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Walter "Skip" George Irvine Jr..

December 16, 2024 at 09:14 AM



“ Sad news. I enjoyed our lengthy conversations around our experiences in government, and the vagaries of communications about vaccines at Merck. He always spoke the truth with humor. A really great guy.

EDDY BRESNITZ - December 16, 2024 at 07:59 AM



“ I knew Skip for many years at Merck, and was fortunate to have him on my team for several of those years. He was always a great professional and leader, but more importantly he was fun, caring and kind. It was always the high point of the day to run into him in the cafeteria or have a coffee with him. He was devoted and spoke often of his girls and Carol. He will be missed very much. Patrick Davish

Patrick Davish - December 16, 2024 at 07:40 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Walter "Skip" George Irvine Jr..

December 15, 2024 at 07:38 PM

SG

“ I was fortunate to work with Skip for many years at Merck. He always had a smile on his face and positive things to say. And he always bragged to me about his wonderful daughters. I am sure he was a fantastic girl dad. He will be greatly missed.

Sue Gregory - December 15, 2024 at 05:22 PM

TH

“ This is sad news. I wouldn't say I worked with Skip extensively over the years, but there was a brief time period we worked together intensely. I did not know him well, but he had such a great attitude and always a smile on his face--was someone who you wouldn't forget and always someone you were happy to bump into. He was really refreshing. Too good a person to go this soon. My deepest condolences to his family. Rest in peace, Skip.

Tim Howard - December 13, 2024 at 09:36 AM

DH

“ I am so sad at heart to learn of Skip's passing. I have wonderful memories of time spent and love shared with Carol, Skip and their beautiful daughters when they visited Obie and Diane in Green Valley, AZ. My deepest prayers are with Carol, Kay and Grace during this difficult time.

With Love and Sympathy, Donna Hoch

Donna Hoch - December 13, 2024 at 08:17 AM

CE

“ Carol,
My heart just ached to learn of your loss. Please know that I am holding you and your family close in my thoughts and prayers. May his memory always be a blessing.
With love and sympathy,
Carol Silver Elliott

Carol Silver Elliott - December 12, 2024 at 01:48 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Walter "Skip" George Irvine Jr..



December 11, 2024 at 04:16 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Walter "Skip" George Irvine Jr..

December 11, 2024 at 04:16 PM

SK

“ Sheldon Koenig planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter "Skip" George Irvine Jr..

Sheldon Koenig - December 11, 2024 at 04:11 PM

MS

“ *What an amazing guy who will surely be missed. Tammy and I express our sincere condolences to the entire family.*

Tammy & Michael Steinberg

Michael Steinberg - December 11, 2024 at 03:37 PM

MF

“ *Merck Global Communiations Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Walter "Skip" George Irvine Jr..*



Merck Global Communiations Family - December 11, 2024 at 09:43 AM

MF

“ *Merck Global Communiations Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter "Skip" George Irvine Jr..*

Merck Global Communiations Family - December 11, 2024 at 09:43 AM

MB

“ *Skip was relentlessly joyful and radiated enthusiasm, never failing to find the right moment to bring laughter to a room. It was impossible to not want to talk with him, and he was always willing to listen. I had the good fortune to begin my career at Merck on the same day as Skip and the privilege to know him ever since. I will always smile when I think of Skip.*

Michael Blash - December 10, 2024 at 11:06 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter "Skip" George Irvine Jr..*



December 10, 2024 at 11:59 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Walter "Skip" George Irvine Jr..

December 10, 2024 at 11:59 AM