



## George R. Iwaniuk

April 9, 1956 - June 3, 2024

George R. Iwaniuk, 68, of Mentor, passed away peacefully on June 3, 2024 at home. He was born April 9, 1956 in Euclid, Ohio to the late George and Ruth Iwaniuk.

A lifelong aviation lover and pilot by trade, George first took to the skies as a flight school student at Kent State University, thereafter beginning his career in the U.S. Air Force in 1981 and completing Squadron Officer School in 1985. The greatest thrill and honor of George's life were undoubtedly the years he spent serving as a fighter pilot, operating F-4s and F-16s. After returning to civilian life in 1990, George spent the following years as a pilot for American Eagle airlines.

Though life threw him a curveball with a Multiple Sclerosis diagnosis, George never let it slow him down. He continued to enjoy life to the fullest right up to the end alongside his cherished family and dear friends. He loved hosting gatherings at his home and many cookouts will be held in his honor for years to come.

George would want to impart a few final tidbits of wisdom: don't sweat the small stuff...there's always a reason to smile!

George is held lovingly in the hearts of his surviving family: daughter, Alissa

(fiancé, Seth Baker) Iwaniuk; nieces, Shelly Waldvogel, Gretchen Waldvogel-Szymanski and Samantha Troy; cousins, Sacha Buytaert and Jeff Buytaert; sister-in-law, Laura Molson, and 5 great nieces and nephews.

Preceding George in death are his beloved wife and best friend of 38 years, Dana C. Iwaniuk, and sister, Carmen Troy.

Private family services were held.

Should family or friends feel moved to donate in George's honor, memorial contributions can be made to his cause of choice: the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter, 2775 Bishop Rd., Suite B, Willoughby Hills, OH 44092.

Arrangements entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, Ohio 44060.

Offer condolences at [www.brunners.com](http://www.brunners.com)

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ George and I were housemates at Kent State University in 1981-82 with several others. He loved his motorcycle. We would ride our cycles into the Summit County back country just to be on the road. I was in George and Dana’s wedding party, but I lost touch with them over the years after I left Ohio. He seemed always to be in good humor. One pastime we shared was relentlessly mocking dumb movies on HBO.

---

**Thomas Bjerstedt** - June 21, 2024 at 03:50 PM

JM

“ Deepest Condolences to the family. George was a great man, loyal to family, country and friends. Back in the late 70's many MHS alumni and others going back a decade melded together into one big group, George was one of the reasons that clicked so well and became many years of great fun and memories, everyone liked being in the same room or place with George Iwaniuk, and the addition of Dana was perfect.  
Rest in Peace George, Salty Dogs everywhere salute you! James McCrea Brecksville OH

---

**James McCrea** - June 09, 2024 at 11:52 AM