



Dr. Robert A. Irvin

March 11, 1922 - February 10, 2016

Long time Lake County resident, Dr. Robert “Bob” A. Irvin died peacefully at home, surrounded by his family on February 10, 2016. If you grew up in Lake County between 1950- 2000, you probably remember going to Dr. Irvin’s office and hearing his corny jokes. Maybe you got your polio vaccine at one of the Sunday clinics he organized. Maybe he came to your home on a house call in the middle of the night. Perhaps he saved your life or that of your child.

If you were a friend of Bob’s, you know about his ability to laugh at himself, his passion for social justice, his awful puns, his love of shrimp and Julie Andrews, his loyalty to the College of Wooster, and his interest in watching any football or basketball game that was on TV.

If you were a medical colleague, you respected his knowledge, his work ethic, his knack of knowing when a child was seriously ill and taking action, and you honored him as the Lake Hospital Physician of the Year in 1983.

If you attended Painesville Methodist Church or Mentor United Methodist Church, you enjoyed hearing his baritone voice in the choir and knew of his involvement with Camphor Mission.

If you were a member of the YMCA, you saw him running around the track at the Central Branch in his red shorts, long before jogging became popular, or serving on the Central and Metro Y Boards, or maybe you benefitted from a scholarship created by his family in his honor.

If you knew Bob in the community, he was volunteering for the Free Clinic, the Painesville City Schools as a member and president of the School Board, the Fair Housing Board, the NAACP, Family Planning Association of Northeast Ohio, Leadership Lake County, or singing or dancing in the Red Stocking Review to raise funds for the Western Reserve Junior Service League's charitable projects.

If you were a member of his family, you learned honesty, integrity, to treat everyone equally, and to protect your food from Polar Bears. You were treated to tales about his childhood, being read to at bedtime, eating moo-burgers, popcorn and runny Jello, his good advice, and his caring about people, particularly children and anyone he knew who was in a nursing home.

If you didn't have the fortune to know Dr. Bob Irvin, he was born in Orrville, Ohio on March 11, 1922 to Dr. George and Anna Irvin, the youngest of six children. Bob graduated from Orrville High School in 1938, from the College of Wooster in 1943, and the Western Reserve School of Medicine in 1946 with his M.D. He enlisted in the army in 1943 and served as an army doc until 1949.

In 1951 Dr. Irvin moved to Painesville to open a pediatric practice -- the first Board Certified pediatrician in the county. He practiced for 47 years, retiring in 1998 and then mentored medical students in the practice and helped initiate the pediatric services of the Free Clinic.

In August of 1944 Bob married his college sweetheart, Margo (Drury) Irvin and they were married 39 years until her death. They had four children who survive both of them: Richard (Ruth) Irvin, Ruth (Richard) Stenberg, John (Rhonda) Irvin, and Kathleen Irvin.

Bob married Connie (Pelton) Irvin in 1984. They have a daughter, Elizabeth

Irvin. He and Connie travelled the world, riding bikes in Vermont, rafting the Colorado River and accompanying Elizabeth to Europe as she played in the Cleveland Wind Symphony.

In addition to his wife and five children, Bob is also survived by his grandchildren: Matthew (Kristy) Stenberg, Benjamin (Shannon) Stenberg, Lindsay Stenberg, Andrea (Jason) Spencer, Erica Irvin (Chris Henry), Margo Irvin, and Nicholas Irvin, four great grandchildren: Kathleen Stenberg, Garrick Robert Stenberg, William Stenberg, and Lily Stenberg, several nieces and nephews, and many friends of all ages.

The family would like to thank The Hospice of Western Reserve and its staff for assisting them in the final weeks of his life. They would also thank Patty Mudry of Comfort Keepers for her loving care and companionship during his final three years.

Calling hours and a reception will be held 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, February 20 at Mentor United Methodist Church, 8600 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH, in the Gallery followed by a Celebration of Life Memorial Service at 4:00 p.m. A private burial service will take place at a later time.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Mentor United Methodist Church, Lake County Free Medical Clinic, or the Lake County YMCA Bob Irvin Scholarship.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home and Cremation Center. Offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **20**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Mentor United Methodist Church
8600 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3496
<http://www.mentorumc.org/>

Memorial Service

FEB **20**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Mentor United Methodist Church
8600 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3496
<http://www.mentorumc.org/>

Tribute Wall

SN

“ I have known Bob Irvin in several different roles. First, when I was a small child, he was my pediatrician. Then when I became good friends with his son Rich, he was the Dad. Next, when I returned to Lake County as an ENT doctor, he was a colleague. Then he and Connie became social friends of Jean and myself. I listened to him sing at Mentor United Methodist Church. At one point he became a patient of mine. In all these roles, he was a very important, very wonderful person. He will be missed.
Dr. Scott Nelson

Scott Nelson - February 19, 2016 at 08:21 AM

DM

Oh what a guy he was. He came to our house once when we were really sick. If you are in contact with Rich share my condolences please. Denise Marks

Denise Marks - May 17, 2016 at 02:22 PM

GK

“ I knew Dr. Irvin not as my pediatrician but as the father of four great children, Rich, Ruth John and Kathleen, whom I used to babysit. I spent many an evening reading stories, tucking the kids in (well, except for Rich who was too old for "tucking in") and picking up scads of toys. And I remember Dr. Irvin walking me home (five door away) to be sure I got home safely. Although the last time I saw him was shortly after he and Connie got married, I have always had a tender place in my heart for him. Dr. Irvin, you will be missed and Rich, Ruth, John and Kathleen my thoughts are with you as you travel through your grief. Gretchen (Meyer) Kucserka

Gretchen Kucserka - February 17, 2016 at 11:49 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Robert A. Irvin.*



February 17, 2016 at 07:56 AM



“ *Dr. Irwin was the embodiment of a true doctor! He took care of me and my six children over the years. During an allergic reaction to eggs, one of my twins, Elizabeth, was having breathing problems, and he knew what to do and saved her life. Every time he saw me out in public he would ask about Elizabeth, who is now 27, happily married and a college graduate. You were loved by so many, rest in peace. Praying for the family.*

Deborah Cattell - February 15, 2016 at 10:53 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to your family. You were a very special person to those who knew you. Thank you for taking such good care of our children. I know you are in good hands with God! Rest In Peace my friend!*

Marie Biddle - February 15, 2016 at 09:01 AM

JP

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of Dr. Irvin. I am turning 68 and in the third grade, my Mom had searched for a Doctor who could diagnose what was wrong with me. Dr. Irvin found out! He sent me to Babies and Childrens in Cleveland where this disease was documented and studied. At that time I was the only living person with it since it was first documented in Europe, It was Thompsen's disease, a rare muscle. disease. Now years later, it is called myotonia congenita, and many people have it, however, still rare.

I have always thanked God for Dr. Irvin, the way he treated me and my family, and his determination to find out what was wrong. I took all of my children to him till he retired, and they just DO NOT make doctors like him anymore.

May God comfort and keep your family, I know I am just ONE of the many patients he cared for over the years, but he will always be my hero! He calmed a scared little girl who thought she had something dreadful assuring her that it was something that I could deal with.

God give you all His peace at the passing of this good man, and great doctor!

Jackie Panich - February 15, 2016 at 08:00 AM

KR

“ Dr. Irvin diagnosed and saved my son's life when he was only 3 weeks old. As he delivered the scary news to me about the need for immediate surgery, I will always remember how calm and caring he was. What an amazing man.

Kris - February 15, 2016 at 07:28 AM

SH

“ You were a wonderful doctor and friend. Our family could never thank you enough for taking such good care of my sister and saving her life. She lived 50 more years after you diagnosed her with leukemia and when she died in 2010 you called our home with sympathy. God bless you Doctor we will never forget you.

Sandie Hess-Horton - February 14, 2016 at 09:03 PM

PR

“ I remember when Dr. Irvin treated my son 38 years ago. I also taught his granddaughter, Lindsay. I saw him running and walking at the Y countless times. He was a great man! I am honored to have known him. My deepest sympathies to every member of his family!

Pam Richmann - February 14, 2016 at 07:48 PM

DB

I consider it an honor and privilege to consider myself to have been a friend and colleague of Bob Irvin for the past 55 years. We collaborated on the management of many patients with problems with both pediatric and obstetric aspects.

We had the opportunity to share the attendance of several Pediatric-Obstetric conferences together.

What a marvelous person and physician we have lost!!

Connie, what a joy you brought into his life.

And Elizabeth...a treasure for your parents!

Dr. Al Bringardner

Dr. Al Bringardner - February 16, 2016 at 08:58 PM

DE

“ My sincere condolences to the family. Rest in Peace Dr.Irvin. Wonderful doctor and gentleman.

Dale Evans - February 14, 2016 at 07:17 PM

DD

“ I am so sorry for the family, loosing such a great man! I am 62 and I remember the office so well and the great care he gave me. He made me feel at ease when I was sick as just a young child. And I took my son to the same group from the day he was born. Then seeing it from a worried parent's eye once again he was a kind informative doctor making sure that I felt comfortable to take my child home with the appropriate medication and follow up. A very caring man indeed. God Bless you all.

Debby Dalton - February 14, 2016 at 06:23 PM

AS

“ Deepest sympathies for the loss of a great man! I had the privledge of getting to know him during the orientation retreat of our Leadership Lake County class of 1998. I will forever remember my 'roomie' with laughter and smiles! Connie and family - you are in our thought and prayers. -Alyson Scott

Alyson Scott - February 14, 2016 at 09:14 AM

PM

“ The only thing I had to fear from Dr. Irvin was "The Shot" itself. He was such a kind man. I will be 61 next month, so we're talking a loooooong time ago. I learned to read when I was 3 years old. I remember there we're two doors into Dr. Irvin's office. One had a sign that read "Sick Children " and the other door read "Well Children". Because he was so kind, I, at 6 years old, thought the second sign said "Well, children!" As if in a greeting. Like "Well, children, come on in! It's so good to see you!" Funny, the things you remember. A great guy. And you're right, Mike Dense. That sucker was like a reward, like the Medal of Honor, for having survived "The Shot", which was usually administered, if memory serves, in a location that was NOT the arm. Prayers and condolences to the family.

Patrick Malizio - February 13, 2016 at 11:53 PM

NN

“ He will be missed I am sure. He was the Dr. for my children and I even took my grand daughter to him for my daughter. He was the one who told me that day that my three and half year old daughter had to have her appendix out. He got Dr. Mc Burney who at the time had his office just across the driveway from his office to come over and confirm it. When your child was sick he and Dr. Jones would always find a way to work you in. He also told me that my older daughter needed to go to Babies and Children"s for her problem. He was always on top of the situation. You were a credit to your calling Dr. Irvin. Blessings to your family. From Norma Pizzino Nelson!

Norma Pizzino Nelson - February 13, 2016 at 08:39 PM

MW

“ Like so many, I first met Dr. Irvin when he arrived at our home with black bag and penicillin to to treat me for scarlet fever. Years later, he was the doctor who answered the midnight call to be present when our daughter was delivered by emergency C-section. In the years between, I knew him as the father of Harvey classmates. and as a respected member of the Painesville City Board of Education. My thoughts and prayers are with the Irvin Family at this difficult time.

Mary Pat Nolan Wainio

Mary P Wainio - February 13, 2016 at 05:45 PM

KN

“ I have had the pleasure and privilege of having Dr Irwin be the pediatrician of my four children
My first baby Shannon was born in 1973 at Lake east hospital. She had a lot of red hair and until she was entering college he would ask... "How's Red doing?" I saw him a lot because at that same time I was seeing him for my two other babies. My son at two weeks old had pyloric stenosis. Very ill.. Dr Irwin was the only Doctor to finally diagnose it. He was a very special man. Kathleen Naismith

kathleen Naismith - February 13, 2016 at 11:58 AM

DL

“ Many fond memories of this fine man.
Always smiling!

Dick Lehto - February 13, 2016 at 11:46 AM

CW

“ At the age of nine, I came down with a strep infection. After a week and a half of going to another physician and getting several shots of penicillin, I was getting worse instead of better. My parents took me to Doctors Irvin, Jones and Lucker. They quickly determined I was allergic to the penicillin and my strep infection had become rheumatic fever. Dr. Irvin made a call and got me into Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland on the spot. My parents were told that I would have been dead within a couple of days had they not gotten me in when they did. I spent the next three and a half months in B&C and Rainbow Hospital in Euclid. That was many years ago, but I have never forgotten the wonderful pediatricians who saved my life in December of 1960. Rest In Peace, Dr. Irvin.

Cindy Walsh-Loy - February 13, 2016 at 09:08 AM

KE

“ wow ruth, how lucky you are to have been blessed having such wonderful father and having him in your life for so long! wow , i truly had no idea he was recently still with you . . .as you may remember, my dad was killed in a car accident when he was only 66. if my memory serves me correctly i believe he was also my doctor growing up . . .may he rest in peace and prayers be with you and your family during this difficult time, kendra

kendra - February 13, 2016 at 08:33 AM



“ Like many others, Dr. Irvin was one of our family pediatricians with Irvin, Jones, and Lucker. Even though we knew if we were going there, it was "shot" time, Dr. Irvin made it bearable and rewarded us with the best tasting suckers with the heavy string holder. (stick suckers were more dangerous!)May he rest in peace and may the family find peace and comfort.

Mike Dense - February 13, 2016 at 07:19 AM

TF

“ Bob's photograph reveals what a "Special" man he was. We celebrate his life from afar and join with others in passing on our sympathy to you. Thank-you for the wonderfully written obituary sharing how this man, named "Dr. Robert "Bob" Irvin", shared his many talents and passions with family, friends and community of the world.

The Rik Danburg Family - February 13, 2016 at 06:52 AM

CP

Connie and family, Rick and I send our love and prayers to you all. I have wonderful memories of him as our family Dr. as a child and knowing him now as friend.

Chris and Rick Provard

Chris Provard - February 13, 2016 at 07:17 AM

EA

May you rest in peace, Dr Irvin, you always gave me peace of mind when I referred some of my difficult pedia cases to you because I knew they were in excellent hands!

Emilia C Allen - February 14, 2016 at 03:18 PM

JC

“ I am sorry for our loss , and Rejoice that Dr, Irvin is sitting at the table with our REDEEMER ! Drs. Irvin and Jones were my doctors until I turned 18 ! As a regular strep-throat victim twice a year , my behind would hurt when we turned the corner to his office and I knew it was shot time ! I was always rewarded with a sucker ,too !

Jon S. Chapin - February 13, 2016 at 06:40 AM



“ Rose Tribute was purchased for the family of Dr. Robert A. Irvin.



February 13, 2016 at 01:08 AM

EB

“ Dear Kathleen and family.
Your father's smile and kind words will not be forgotten. He was a wonderful, caring man and the best pediatrician. He took care of me as a child and then my children. I will remember him fondly.
Eve Idnurm Behrens

Eve Behrens - February 12, 2016 at 08:13 PM

LS

“ I first met Dr. Irvin as an infant in 1951. I was born with a rare congenital anomaly, and was a frequent visitor to his pediatric office. He encouraged my interest in nursing and I received my Nursing degree in Cincinnati. After working at Cincinnati Children's hospital, I returned to Lake County in 1984. I was overjoyed to work frequently with him when he would come into the nursery at Lake County hospital in Painesville. Then in 2002 I left the hospital to work in his Pediatric office. He had retired by that time, but I got to see him when he visited. I can tell you that he was the best pediatrician. He was a great clinician, and he was a caring, empathetic doctor. I am honored to have known him.

Lynn Starkey - February 12, 2016 at 07:44 PM

SC

“ So many memories: certainly the Irvin, Lucker and Goldberg practice got me through my two children's health needs, and as an active member of Mentor United Methodist Church, seeing him with Connie and listening to his singing...but my favorite memory is of Bob taking a short story class at church at which we studied God in the stories. He never spoke up much (hard to get a word in edgewise!) but when he did break through the female chatter, it was always on point and often quite hilarious. A wonderful man, so talented and always eager to learn more...my sympathies to the families on your loss.

Affectionately,
Sally S. Carr

Sally S Carr - February 12, 2016 at 06:53 PM