



## Irwin Gates Massie

December 14, 1939 - October 24, 2024

Irwin Gates Massie, 84, of Jackson, Ohio, passed away peacefully the morning of October 24, 2024 overlooking the same Franklin Valley hills he admired for decades from his home on Four Mile Road. Irwin was notorious for the laughter he brought to any room he entered. Whether pulling pranks on friends and family, uncorking his patented one-liners, or telling far-flung tales to his hair salon customers, everyone who knew Irwin knew they'd smile in his presence.

Born December 14, 1939, in Gallipolis, Ohio, Irwin is survived by his wife, Margaret J. (Peggy) Massie, son, Erik (Jenny) Massie, brother Fielding (Marti) Massie, grandsons Evan, Cole (Samantha), and Aidan Massie, all of Jackson, Sister in-law Carol Osborne of Palm Desert, CA, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Irwin spent his life working, a principle instilled in him and his brother by their parents, Barbara Gates Massie and Kermit Massie, who preceded Irwin in death. Irwin's Hair Designers in downtown Jackson was a staple of the Main Street business community.

While he was known and loved for his jokes and warm personality in the salon, what many people didn't see was the behind-the-scenes effort it took to build and sustain his business success over those 30 years. Things like

spending weekend mornings meticulously bookkeeping in the back bedroom and pulling all-nighters to keep flood waters from ruining the basement at his shop were the bedrock of his success. He passed on that strong work ethic to his son, Erik, who is President of Geiger Brothers in Jackson.

Irwin balanced his work with a healthy amount of fun. He and his wife Peggy were instrumental in the building of Wagon Wheelers Hall, where they were members of the Wagon Wheelers Square Dance Club, and spent many nights dancing with friends throughout Southeastern Ohio. He bought, then sold, then bought again the exact same silver 1973 MG MGB convertible, which he enjoyed driving through the Jackson County countryside. Following in his father's footsteps, Irwin also dabbled in fine woodworking and read hundreds of political thrillers and spy novels checked out from the Jackson City Library. He spent years looking after his 40-acre homestead, an effort that included setting a potential world record for total hours spent on a Grasshopper mower, waging a constant battle with gravity to keep the gravel on his driveway after a storm, and defending the property from woodpeckers, copper thieves, and uninvited fishermen.

He was an avid golfer and member of Franklin Valley Golf Club, where he enjoyed weekly rounds with the same group of friends for many years. For better or worse, he passed on the game to his son, Erik, and three grandsons, Evan, Cole, and Aidan, and spent many summer mornings taking them out to Franklin Valley, before proudly watching all of them play golf for Jackson High School.

Irwin also enjoyed traveling with Peggy, making many multi-week cross-country road trips to visit her sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Bart Osborne, in Southern California. In particular, he loved the American West, including Yellowstone National Park, the Rocky Mountains, and Moab, Utah. He and Peggy also spent several winters making annual trips to Myrtle Beach,

South Carolina, where they built a strong friend group.

Later in retirement, you could reliably find Irwin, each morning, sitting beside his wife on the banquette at The Spot on Main, owned by their daughter-in-law, Jenny Massie. Irwin's hospitality will be missed by the staff and customers who grew accustomed to him opening doors, sipping on black coffee, and eating something sweet everyday at The Spot.

Irwin was reliably early to every function, always gave a firm handshake, and loved dining out with friends and family. He gave decades of free haircuts to his wife, son, and grandsons, dutifully set up the Christmas decorations every winter, and made the same repeated jokes which will live with his family always.

Most of all, Irwin loved and was loved immensely by his family, rarely communicated verbally, but communicated everyday through his actions and kindness.

A private family service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers or cards, donations can be made in Irwin's name to Jackson County Forward, a 501c3 whose mission is to improve the health and well being of the people who live in Jackson County, Ohio. Jackson County Forward, 2 E. Oak St., Jackson, OH 45640.

Condolences may be sent to the family at: [www.mayhew-brownfuneralhome.com](http://www.mayhew-brownfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

KM

“ Irwin was one of my favorite Jackson people, as I became a customer of his in the early 2000s. My mother’s maiden name was Massey, which Irwin always told me was the wrong spelling. 😊 He never forgot to ask about my daughter and my family, and he was just the nicest man. He ALWAYS mentioned Peg in telling me what he’d been up to, and his love for her was so obvious. My thoughts are with the family and his many close friends who will greatly miss this fine gentleman. Peace to all of you.

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**Kathy L McKinney** - November 04, 2024 at 07:51 PM

DJ

“ Just got word from Bronwyn and so sorry. Peggy our thoughts and prayers are with you and family.  
Cousin Don

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**DONALD W JONES** - October 28, 2024 at 08:50 PM

MB

“ You make many friends during your life, but it is rare to find special friends later in life. We were blessed to meet Irv (and Peg) as fellow snowbirds in Myrtle Beach. We spent many hours together and Irv never failed to make us laugh with his one liners and dry sense of humor. He was always there to lend an helping hand. Above all else, he was a true gentleman. Rest in peace, dear friend. You will be missed.

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**Marie Beerman** - October 26, 2024 at 06:15 PM

PM

“ A very sad day. So many memories and good times at “ the shop”.  
He was the best!! He will be sorely missed and always  
remembered by all of us who were privileged to call him “ friend”.  
Love and prayers for comfort to his family❤️

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**Pamela Mapes** - October 25, 2024 at 10:31 PM

ET

“ I did Erwin, but when I was in high school, I worked for his father  
Kermit Massie When Erwin graduated from college, Kermit and I  
worked to set up his hair salon in Jackson. Kermit was a good man  
and really proud of Erwin

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**ernie tilley** - October 25, 2024 at 08:02 PM

ET

*I did not know Erwin*

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**ernie tilley** - October 25, 2024 at 08:22 PM

CA

“ Tremendous man!

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**Carolyn Ayle** - October 25, 2024 at 04:36 PM

SW

“ I’m so thankful I had the privilege to work for Irwin . I love him and his family dearly ❤️ One saying he always had for me 😊 “Why me Lord ? Why me ? “ In other words why did he have to put up with me 💔 I’ll never forget him and the good times we had at work and with family 😊 Peg babysat for our son when I got in a jam and needed a on the spot babysitter. Our son and older Eric spent a few days together as little buddies ❤️ I’m so sorry for this loss 💔 You will forever be my favorite boss ! I will always cherish the time we spent working and laughing together ❤️

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**Shirley Prater Wyant** - October 25, 2024 at 03:27 PM

RD

*So sorry for your loss Peg, you two made retirement look so good!*

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**Randy and Bobbi Daniels** - October 28, 2024 at 12:16 PM