



Irwin John LeCocq

January 24, 1925 - March 14, 2019

Irwin J. LeCocq passed away peacefully on March 14th, 2019 at the age of 94, surrounded by the love and affection of his closest family members and in the comfort of his own home in Bellingham, WA.

Irwin was one of the “greatest generation” – an independent, strong, and compassionate man who led his life with honesty and integrity in everything he did. He was loyal and true to his family, fun and fun loving, a great mentor to many, and a wonderful friend to all of us.

He was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota, in 1925 and with his father, Irwin LeCocq, and his mother, Mary DeBeer, he eventually traveled west to settle in Lynden, Washington in 1929.

Irwin was a child of the Great Depression and this left an indelible mark on his personality for the rest of his life, giving him a strong work ethic, compassion for the less fortunate, and an appreciation for the blessings in his own life.

In 1942, WWII ensued and Irwin enlisted in the Army Air Corps, where he served honorably in the South Pacific, which included Manila and Los Negros in the Admiralty Islands.

In 1947, he married the stunningly beautiful Frances Mabry and, in 1952,

joined his father, Irwin LeCocq, at Peoples State Bank, where he spent the rest of his career.

Irwin had a clear understanding of his priorities in life: His wife Frances and his family came first, he placed great value on his friendships, he loved his business, Peoples Bank, and finally, he loved his community – where he donated hundreds of hours of leadership, volunteer work, and resources to support those who were less fortunate.

Irwin believed in individual responsibility to the community and served a number of state and local organizations, including: Trustee of Western Washington University, Board Member of WWU Foundation, Board member and Treasurer of the Saint Joseph Hospital, Founding Board Member of the Bellingham Festival of Music, Director of the Washington Bankers Association, State Representative of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, Board Member of the Whatcom Art Museum, Mt. Baker Theater, YMCA, and NW Concert; he was a Member of the Government Relations Council for American Bankers Association, a member the Governor's Task Force for the Arts, Board Member and Treasurer of the Mt. Baker Kidney Center, Board Member of the Whatcom Chamber of Commerce, twice President of the Lynden Chamber of Commerce, Chairman and Board Member of the Lynden Planning Commission, Board Member of the Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation, President of the American Legion and President and Board member of the Whatcom Development Council.

Irwin was also the proud recipient of numerous community awards like Western Washington University's Presidents Award and the Whatcom County Lifetime Business Achievement Award from Business Pulse Magazine.

We will miss Irwin's love of art, music, books, and his insatiable curiosity about nearly everything.

We will miss that slight grin and that mischievous twinkle in his eye, his wonderful sense of humor, and his quick wit.

And although we have lost his physical presence, we know he is with his wife, Frances, his extended family, and we know he is with God, as he continues to surround us with compassion, affection, and love.

Tribute Wall

SL

“ I always think of Irwin as an incredibly gracious person. When I was a young pup, at a family potluck at the bay, an action of his stuck with me for life. I visualized him as this huge banker dude high above others. What I saw him do, in a group situation, so impressed me that I decided I wanted to practice his behavior in my life. Irwin moved around the group conversing with each person in such a way that “put them first”. What a humble and giving thing he did for each person. Even as a young feller I clearly visualized what a great life skill that was in interacting with and enjoying other people. I have attempted to approach my relationships with others in that style I saw Irwin so easily do. Putting others first, what a novel concept.

Steve LeCocq - March 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ I have enjoyed the friendship with Irwin and Frances for a very long time and I feel the loss deeply. They were a remarkable couple and I will surely miss them both.

Anne Wood - March 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

DeAnna DeBoer - March 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ Irwin was a true gentleman! He and Fran were long-time and much-loved members of the Tennis Club. My favorite memory is remembering how often Irwin would tell me that “it was love at first sight” when he met Fran. We can take solace in knowing they are reunited once again.

Karen Barniol - March 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

FU

“ We will certainly miss Irwin, we enjoyed seeing him around the neighborhood with his friendly wave and smile. He was such a kind, caring man. Now he is with Frances, and that is so wonderful and comforting to know. They were such a sweet couple. To all the LeCocq family, you have our deepest sympathy and love.

Fahri & Robin Ugurlu - March 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM