



## Irene G. Baxter

July 11, 1936 - September 25, 2018

Irene Cecelia Wallace Gleason Baxter, 82, died on September 25, 2018 at her home in Fairfax, Virginia. Her funeral service will be held Saturday, October 13, 2018. Visitation will be held from 10:00am – 1:00pm with the funeral service immediately following. The service will be held at the Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315. A Celebration of Life Reception will immediately follow. There will be a family burial at Arlington National Cemetery in November.

Irene was born on July 11, 1936 in Keyport, New Jersey. While in New Jersey she studied nursing and worked on Wall Street. Irene met John 'Jack' Gleason at a senior class play at St. Mary's High School in South Amboy, New Jersey. The two began dating soon after and married following Jack's graduation from West Point.

Irene excelled as a military spouse. She had the ability to create a loving home environment for her family even when all that may have been in the home were boxes. She managed over 11 moves for her family of three within eight years. All of Irene's children were born in different states. The family moved to Maryland in 1970 where they stayed for 31 years. She held various positions on Capitol Hill and within the Maryland State Legislature. Irene was a two-time cancer survivor.

Following Jack's death in 2001, Irene met and married Bill Baxter, also a West Point graduate. Irene and Bill shared a deep love of travel and entertaining. They spent time between Bethany Beach, Delaware, Fairfax, Virginia and other locations based on family, friends and where their hearts took them.

Irene is survived by her husband William P. Baxter, LT Colonel US Army retired, daughter Diane Gleason and her partner Jim Bronson, son John Kevin Gleason and daughter-in-law Kristin Rohm Gleason and daughter Maureen Gleason Bryant. She is also survived by three grandchildren Mallorie Calvert and her fiancé; Jake McKay, Colin Gleason, Ellen Gleason as well as her sister and brother-in-law Gail Gleason Milgram and Bill Milgram.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to The Breast Cancer Foundation, [www.bcrf.org](http://www.bcrf.org).

# Comments

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“ 1 file added to the album Obituary Wall

Jefferson Funeral Chapel - January 28, 2019 at 10:10 AM

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“ Today is the day we celebrate your life Mom. What an amazing life you had. It's comforting to know you are now always with us.....I love you....Mo

October 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ Irene's family: I'm so sorry for your loss. I went through a similar situation and I was very helped by the hope that I found in the Bible in John 5: 28, which says, "Do not amazed at this, for the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out". I am sending you a link with more information on this hope. <https://www.jw.org/en/publications/magazines/awake-no3-2018-nov-dec/>

October 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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October 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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Lily and Rose Tribute Spray - October 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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Dear Gleason family,

I, my wife Patsy and daughter Natalie first met Jack, Irene and kids at Chambley Air Base in France in January, 1966. I was assigned to Jack's RB-66 crew and ultimately flew, with him, across the Atlantic when our squadron was relocated to Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, in late 1966. Jack and I went on to separate jobs in Vietnam about the same time in 1968. But, ironically, Irene stayed near Jack's last job at Lockbourne, AFB (Columbus, Ohio) while I left Patsy and Natalie in an apartment in Fairborn, Ohio (near Wright Patterson AFB). Irene and Patsy teamed up at one memorable (bizarre but funny) winter rendezvous at the Tiki restaurant in Columbus.

Patsy and I, Jack and Irene became lifelong friends the day we met. We shared traveling-Europe experiences (Copenhagen stands out in my memory). Sadly, I am now the sole survivor of that wonderful friendship. First Jack, then Patsy and now Irene have left those memories of our exciting, harrowing, funny, daring and totally enjoyable camaraderie to my mortal and perishable brain.

After Patsy died in 2009 from metastatic breast cancer, Irene became my telephone buddy. We could easily spend hours reminiscing about the past and sharing current events. My joy in those telephone conversations was the knowledge that Irene and I could be totally open with each other and still remain friends. I think the key was that we both agreed on everything. I don't think I will ever have another sounding board like Irene.

The attached photo was taken at the Shaw Air Force Base housing area in 1967. Irene and Diane are on the left and Patsy and Natalie are on the right. God bless you all for loving Irene.

October 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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**Vivid Recollections** - October 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM