



John Irvin Lege

May 14, 1925 - March 18, 2015

John I. Legé Obituary

May 14, 1925 – March 18, 2015

Longtime Napa resident John I. Legé passed away peacefully on March 18 at the age of 89. John grew up in Abbeville Louisiana, being raised by his extended family after his mom died when he was five months old. He left to join the U.S. Navy at age 17 and served on submarines in the Pacific during WW II and the Korean War. It was while stationed at Honolulu, Hawaii that he met his future wife Evelyn Perry. They were married in 1946 and lived in Hawaii and Northern CA before settling in Napa in 1953.

John was a member of one of the founding families of the St. Apollinaris parish in 1957. He and his wife Evelyn played a significant role in helping both the church and the school get started. John taught all the original Irish nuns how to drive a car and was always available when the nuns needed a leaky roof patched or a screen repaired.

John worked at Mare Island Naval Shipyard from 1952 until his retirement in 1980. He advanced in standing as a Technical Engineer and eventually served as the lead project engineer for the overhaul of the nuclear submarines which came to the shipyard for upgrades and repairs. After his retirement, John worked as a consultant for Sperry-Rand for another 11 years.

John was very active throughout his life. In addition to holding a variety of

second jobs to help meet the financial needs of his family, he also enjoyed camping, hunting and doing home and car repairs.

Both John and Evelyn loved to travel, including to France and other portions of Europe, Japan, Nova Scotia, Madera and throughout the United States.

They spent a significant amount of time during their travels doing genealogy research. As a result, his family is officially recognized as an Acadian diaspora family.

John was preceded in death by Evelyn, his wife of 60 years, who died in 2005. He is survived by his four sons: Steve and Nancy of Davis, Jerry and Sousesan of Palm Springs, John and Barbara of Napa, and Mike of Phoenix; four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

A memorial mass will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 21, at St. Apollinaris Catholic church, 3700 Lassen St, Napa, CA.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Irvin Lege*

September 29, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *John Irvin Lege*

September 29, 2022 at 02:55 PM

MC

“ Steve, Jerry, John and Michael - my deepest sympathy to each of you and your families on the death of your wonderful Dad. I was really shocked when I learned of his death from Sr. Philomena this morning. She had heard about it from Sr. Peggy who is still in St. A's

John has written to me every Christmas since your Mom passed away and always included a generous gift for a treat. I had sent him a card for St. Patrick's Day and hope he got it. He always gave me an update on "our boys" and this past Christmas expressed his delight that you Jerry had returned to the USA

I spent much time today down "memory lane" and thought about how much your dear parents did for us Sisters when we first went to Napa. During my many visits back since I left in 1985

I was fortunate enough to have spent time with Evelyn and John and then since your Mom passed away I enjoyed chats with your Dad. He was always so interesting on current political issues and was always able to fill me in on the history of a particular issue.

They organised many parties for me in their home and invited all my/their friends to come and chat. Your Dad attended daily Mass when he retired so I usually met him there each morning during my return visits.

Know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers at this time of deep loss. If any of you decide to visit Ireland I'll be delighted to see you!

Loving wishes!

Mary Corcoran (Sr. Liguori)

Mary Corcoran - March 21, 2015 at 03:58 PM

PW

“ As a sister-in-law, a special memory of John Irvin was visiting him and Evelyn in their Napa home to plan a week long trip to Congrès Mondial Acadien in Canada, an international gathering of Acadian descendants. Later in Québec City, John and Evelyn graciously greeted us with wine and cheese on a patio just as they had done in Napa. This time the brothers, separated by time and distance, were together re-connecting while looking out from a hotel rooftop patio over Québec City. All of us contemplated what it must have been like in the mid 1600s when their grandparents arrived from France. Later we walked through a museum and ruins where the grandfather served as keeper of the King’s warehouse and visited the church where their son Michel dit Richelieu Leger was baptized. Michel, like John, had his time at sea and sailed with the warehouse goods throughout the French territories. He met and fell in love with a young woman from Acadia (now Nova Scotia). Angelique Pinet became the Legé link to the rich history of French Acadian ancestors who had been thriving in Acadia for 150 years since the early 1600s. We ended our explorations at the Fortress of Louisbourg in what is now Nova Scotia. This amazingly large fort was the last stronghold of the Acadians, including Michel and Angelique, who had thus far avoided the 1755 deportation by the British of all French speaking Catholics. John Irvin and Evelyn were prime movers in the establishment of the Richelieu Lege/Léger/Legère Family Association.
<http://www.cafa.org/LegerPageOne.html>

You will be missed but not forgotten.

Pat Whitten-Lagé Houston, Tx

Pat Whitten-Lagé - March 21, 2015 at 12:52 PM

GW

“ I have wonderful memories of my older brother John Irvin, whom I got to know late in our lives through his lovely wife Evelyn. Her pursuit of genealogy brought us together in a wonderful week-long trip to the Legé homeland in Quebec and Nova Scotia. They also helped us reconnect with extended family members in Louisiana. They shared a beautiful love story and life of dedication. Both were gracious, open hearted, hardworking and adventuresome with a good sense of humor. God, country, and family were at the center of their lives. I admired him as a true hero. He served our country throughout World War II bunking above a torpedo in a submarine. He loved to take visitors to San Francisco where he was a volunteer guide of a submarine very similar to the one on which he served.
Gene Whitten-Lagé Houston, Tx

Gene Whitten-Lagé - March 21, 2015 at 11:13 AM

GF

“ Gene Whitten-Lagé and Texas family purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of John Irvin Lege.



Gene Whitten-Lagé and Texas family - March 20, 2015 at 06:51 PM

BS

“ *My deepest sympathy to Monsieur Lege's family.
Your father took French from me at Napa Valley College
some years back.
It was a joy to have him in the class.
He was very proud of his Acadian heritage and very
excited about continuing with his French studies.
Since then I have seen him at St. A's Church and he always
seemed to enjoy practicing his French...
You are in my thoughts and prayers.
Warmest Regards,
Bernice Sousa-Carden*

Bernice Sousa-Carden - March 20, 2015 at 06:10 PM

RF

“ *Rudy Lege, Victor, Barbara, Janet & family
purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the
family of John Irvin Lege.*



Rudy Lege, Victor, Barbara, Janet & family - March 20, 2015
at 12:33 AM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for
the family of John Irvin Lege.*



March 19, 2015 at 09:38 PM