

REMEMBERING BOB

Robert Wilton Irwin was born October 8, 1932, to Alvin and Esther Irwin in Minot, ND. He grew up in Minot except for a short period of time when he and his mother lived in Seattle, WA while his Dad was in the U.S. Army. When he returned to Minot he finished all his schooling there and then started working for Great Northern Railroad (later Burlington Northern) at the age of 17. He started in the Round House, graduated to delivering freight trailers around town, and ended with driving crews to and from trains. He worked there 43 years.

Bob married Donna Fay Ehr in 1956, and they were together nearly 70 years. Her family introduced him into the rodeo side of the horses and he was immediately hooked. He went on to win many championships in calf roping, steer wrestling and team roping. He was a sought after "hazer" at rodeos all the time. Bob was especially proud that some of his friends that bought rodeo horses from him went on to attain Cowboy Hall of Fame status.

Together, Bob and Donna had three children, all who have a strong passion for horses and rodeo. They in turn have passed that love onto their children, allowing Bob's legacy to live on. He was always willing to invest in a horse deal and partner with his kids and grandkids. He bought numerous horses over the phone "sight unseen" right up until his last week.

Bob also liked to elk hunt in Montana, bird and deer hunt with friends around Killdeer and New Town, and fish wherever they were "biting". He and Donna loved to travel through the National Parks and took many trips after he retired. They always had a huge garden. He kept the practice arena worked even after all the kids had married and left home because "you never know when someone might stop in to try a horse". He later turned some of the arena into the garden but still kept it all worked up.


Bob was a director in the ND High School Rodeo Association and a Trustee for the ND Cowboy Hall of Fame.

He is preceded in death by his mother and father, mother and father in law, sister-in-law Willa Myers and various aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Bob is survived by wife (of 69 years) Donna; sons, Arnie "Poncho" (Patti); Robert "John" (Susie); daughter, Wanda (Rory Brown); grandchildren, Myre (Nick Cross); Sam Irwin (Robynn); Marni Irwin; Rory Irwin (Mandy); Halli Irwin; Cameron Irwin; great grandchildren, Klanci Cross; and Eli Irwin. Other survivors include brother-in-law, Sonny Ehr (Mardean) and nieces and nephews he inherited.

Arrangements have been placed in the care of
Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home
Hot Springs, South Dakota

ROBERT WILTON IRWIN 1932-2025



"Dad wasn't a vocal leader, he quietly led by example. He stayed busy, paid his bills, respected everyone, and loved and supported his family and friends. His horses were always fed, the grass was always cut, and his equipment was always maintained. He was never late for anything."

HOW THE HECK DID HE DO IT?"



IN LOVING MEMORY
**ROBERT WILTON
IRWIN**

October 8, 1932
Minot, North Dakota

November 27, 2025
Hot Springs, South Dakota

MEMORIAL SERVICES

2:00 p.m., Thursday, December 4th, 2025
Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home
Hot Springs, South Dakota

OFFICIANT—Tim Schaack

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Go Rest High on That Mountain"—Vince Gill
"When I Get Where I'm Going"—Brad Paisley
"The Cowboy Rides Away"—George Strait

PALLBEARERS

Sam Irwin, Cameron Irwin, Rory Irwin
Nick Cross, Larry Taylor, Teigen Marchant

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

All of Bob's Family & Friends

REFRESHMENTS

Following Bob's Memorial Service

Above everything else, guard your heart. For everything you do flows from it.

Proverbs 4:23