



## Irene Austin Pires

September 15, 1953 - April 7, 2018

Irene Austin Pires passed away peacefully on April 7 2018 surrounded by family and friends. Irene was an inspiration to others in her eight year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Irene was born September 15, 1953 in Glasgow, Scotland the daughter of the late Bryce and Martha Ferguson.

After leaving Scotland and spending several years in Canada she moved to New York where she ultimately pursued her passion for fashion design. She was the Personal Assistant to American designer Bill Blass and later the Director of Advertising and Public Relations for Bill Blass Ltd.

In retirement, Irene enjoyed playing bridge, golf, and helping friends redecorate their homes. She was affectionately nicknamed "The General" by her friends as a result of her take charge approach in running the women's locker room for the LPGA Big Apple Classic at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY. As an active member of Wykagyl, she chaired several fundraisers for Cancer.

After moving to Southwest Florida she was an active golfer at Shadow Wood Country Club.

Irene is survived by her husband Steve, stepchildren, Brian Pires, Lori Magnante (Chris), brothers, Alister Ferguson, Gordon Ferguson (Margaret) and Bryce Ferguson (Jan). She is also survived by three loving grandchildren and six loving nieces and nephews.

Her funeral and Requiem Eucharist will be celebrated on Friday, April 13, 2018 at 11:00 AM at St. Mary's Episcopal Church 9801 Bonita Beach Rd., Bonita Springs, FL.

The family would like to express its sincere gratitude to the healthcare professionals at Joanne's House at Hope Hospice for their loving care and kindness, and for treating terminally ill patients with dignity. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Joanne's House at Hope Hospice 27100 Imperial Parkway, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

To sign her guest register or to leave online condolences please visit [www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com](http://www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com)

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Service

APR 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church  
9801 Bonita Beach Road  
Bonita Springs, FL

# Tribute Wall



“ *Irene Austin Pires*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *I loved the lovely lilt in her voice, that excitement and smile. I will always feel blessed to have been able to call her my friend when we lived at Shadowwood.i pray for the family healing. Susan Troianello*

**Susan Martin** - May 21, 2018 at 05:50 AM



“ *It is with heavy hearts that we mourn the passing of Irene, she was a very special person and held a very special place in our lives. All our Canadian memories of time spent together, plus a good time spent with Steve and Irene in New York, will forever be fondly remembered. Our thoughts are with Steve and his family at this time.*

*Colin & Kay Campbell*

**Colin & Kay Campbell** - April 14, 2018 at 07:13 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to Steve and family. Irene left a beautiful imprint on our lives. She will be missed. Prayers and God Bless.*

*Sue & Dick Brunn*

**Dick & Sue Brunn** - April 13, 2018 at 03:58 PM

RZ

“ Rob Zasso purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Irene Austin Pires.



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**Rob Zasso** - April 12, 2018 at 04:46 PM

SL

“ Irene was so very strong and optimistic through her treatments. She always had a smile when she was at the fitness center whether for exercise or pampering. She will be remembered fondly and missed. My thoughts go out to Steve who remained his charming self throughout the challenges as well as the rest of the family and friends.

*Stacey Lima*

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**stacey lima** - April 12, 2018 at 11:38 AM

JB

“ I have many fond memories of our times on the golf course and the smiles and energy when I would see her walking her dogs. She will be missed. A very classy lady.  
*Joyce from Morningside*

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**joyce beowning** - April 12, 2018 at 07:35 AM

JW

*Irene was an inspiration to anyone who knew her. That beautiful smile and unique style captivated everyone. She will be missed.*

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**Jane Wong** - April 12, 2018 at 06:09 PM

NA

“ *When ever I was in Eileen’s presence it was always a happy time! She is truly blessed and will be missed and loved by so many friends!! Much love!! Nancy & Bill Delayo*

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**NancyDelayo** - April 11, 2018 at 11:09 PM

  
Richard  
Welsh

“ *Will desperately miss this lovely, charming, lady. What a warrior, what a fighter. She, through her last years of illness, taught us all a great lesson of bravery and the will to survive. Whenever I described her I used the word "glamorous" that was true, but a very small part of who she was. Miss you already beautiful lady. Keep smiling in Heaven and bring the angels the joy you brought us all. Our deepest condolences to your supportive and dear husband and friend, Steve, and to your entire family. Christine and Richard Welsh*

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**Richard Welsh** - April 11, 2018 at 12:20 PM

LM

“ *We are deeply sadden by Irene’s passing. We were blessed to have known her, sharing good times and times of struggle throughout the 13 years we’ve known her and Steve. We can be encouraged that after her valiant struggles she is now at peace. Our condolences and sympathies to her family and especially to Steve who supported Irene and fought with her each day of her illness. Steve and Lorrie Morrison*

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**Lorrie Morrison** - April 11, 2018 at 09:22 AM

SR

*“ We are so sorry to hear of Irene's passing. She was an wonderful woman with a heart of gold. Will always remember her helping hand with bringing Joe and Chris home from the hospital after their birth. Our deepest sympathy to Steve and all of Irene's family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Lex and Sue Ramondelli and the kids, Joe, Chris, Nick and Melissa*

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**Sue Ramondelli** - April 10, 2018 at 04:20 PM

KC

*“ Kelly & Bob Corwen purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Irene Austin Pires.*



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**Kelly & Bob Corwen** - April 10, 2018 at 03:13 PM

SC

*“ We are deeply saddened to hear of Irene's passing. Irene was truly an amazing woman. We feel fortunate to have known her all these years. Our most sincere condolences to Steve and Irene's family. Steve and Kelly*

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**Steve Cullen** - April 10, 2018 at 02:30 PM

JS

*“ Our deepest sympathies Steve. Irene was a wonderful friend. She was such an inspiration to many of us. Will never be forgotten. Wish we could be there. In our prayers. Jane and Jack*

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**Jane Shea** - April 09, 2018 at 05:04 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Irene Austin Pires.*



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April 09, 2018 at 02:29 PM