

A Lively Curiosity

Robert P. Irvan (FCAS 1978)

1937-2021

Bob Irvan of Eatonton, Georgia, died at his home on July 6, 2021, surrounded by family. He was 83. He initially dropped out of college but, after 90 days working on an assembly line, decided to return to school and got a degree at Wayne State University. He worked for many years at CNA in the life and health field, and he earned an MBA from the University of Chicago. Irvan then joined AFIA, a consortium of U.S.-based companies formed to write insurance outside of North America. He was hired as their accident and health actuary, but began taking CAS exams as he got more involved in AFIA's P&C business. In 1978 he joined a small group of actuaries who held both FSA and FCAS credentials. CIGNA acquired AFIA in 1983, and Irvan was eventually named CFO. He frequently visited AFIA's (and later CIGNA's) foreign offices, especially London, which originated a large portfolio of reinsurance business. (Irvan observed, "The London market does not assume risk. It handles it.") He had a lively curiosity about many subjects. One of his favorite books was *An Exaltation of Larks*, an illustrated book of collective nouns. He traveled widely and loved trying local foods and beers. He is survived by Nancy, his wife of 54 years; his sons, Joshua and Jeffrey and their wives; and two granddaughters. Donations may be made in his name to the Robert and Nancy Irvan endowed Scholarship in Math at Wayne State University, Box 674603, Detroit, Michigan 48267.