



U. S. Chess Federation
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CHESS WORLD MOURNS LOSS OF GRANDMASTER IGOR IVANOV



(Crossville, TN) Born in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) on January 8, 1947, Igor learned chess at age 5. By age 14 Igor was not only an accomplished chess player but talented with playing the piano and the cello. The death of Igor's mother resulted in him being placed in an orphanage at age 14. His recognized musical talents afforded him many privileges which allowed him more time to study chess. Igor chose at age 18 to pursue a career as a chess professional.

Ivanov was offered a position as a professional chess player in Tajikistan which he quickly accepted. Ivanov went on to beat reigning World Champion Anatoly Karpov in 1979. This victory

earned Igor his first trip abroad to play in the Capablanca Memorial in Cuba in 1980. On the return trip which had a stopover in Newfoundland, Igor asked and received political asylum by the Canadian government.

Igor moved to the United States, settling eventually in St. George, Utah. Among many events which Igor participated in he won nine of the U.S. Chess Federation's Grand Prix series only to realize 24 years later, in 2005, he actually achieved his Grand Master title.

GM Ivanov succumbed to cancer November 17 in St. George and is survived by his wife, Elizabeth. Igor's determination proved to be remarkable with his playing this year in the National Open in Las Vegas, Nevada in June and the U.S. Open in Phoenix, Arizona this past August.

Funeral will be held for Igor in St. George on November 28 and there will be a tribute to him at the St. George Chess Club the evening of December 16 followed by a chess tournament in his honor on December 17. For additional details contact Alan Crooks at alan@alancrooks.com.

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The United States Chess Federation (USCF), founded in 1939, serves as the governing body for chess in the United States and is now headquartered in Crossville, Tennessee. USCF is devoted to extending the role of chess in American society. It promotes the study and knowledge of the game of chess, for its own sake as an art and enjoyment, and as a means for the improvement of society. The USCF is a not-for-profit membership organization with almost 90,000 members. For additional information on the USCF see: <http://www.uschess.org>. Soon an area on their website will be available for tributes to Igor under, "In Passing."

