



Albert Paul Kretz Jr.

October 14, 1929 - June 15, 2026

Albert Paul Kretz Jr., age 96, of Mentor, passed away June 15, 2026 leaving behind a lifetime of memories and friends.

He grew up in Chicago, IL, where he worked as a youth at Kretz Shoe Store and attended St. Philomena School. He met his future wife, Alice, at a school event, and they had 67 wonderful years, until she passed in December of 2020. He pursued further schooling, graduating with a bachelor's degree in biology from Loyola University, a master's degree in business administration from the University of Chicago and a master's degree in biology from Northwestern University. Then he obtained his Doctorate in Microbiology from the University of Rochester.

He led roles in varied careers that included time spent as Dean of Lake Erie College, the Director of the Kolff Foundation and various businesses of his own creation. He was always working on an invention or his model airplanes. He was an entrepreneur and a scientist to the very end.

Albert was a parishioner of St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Mentor, Ohio, a lector and an active member of the "2nd Pew Crew". He loved to celebrate and was well known for his annual luau for his friends and family.

Survivors include his children, Cathleen Van Wassen, Albert (Diane) Kretz III

and Colleen (James) Gallagher; grandchildren, Matthew (Kari), Krista, Kevin (Stevie), Kyle (Cassidy), Keith, Katie (Kai), Erin and Andrew; great grandchildren, Sadie, Mia, Renley, Colton, Sophia and Kennedy; sisters, Mary Connor Gerard and Caroline Whalen; sister-in-law, Joan Kretz and many nieces, nephews and other loving family members and friends.

Preceding Albert in death are his wife, Alice P. Kretz (nee: Burns); brother, William Kretz and son-in-law, David Van Wassen

Family and friends will be received from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Thursday, June 18, 2026 at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 7575 Bellflower Rd., Mentor, Ohio 44060. A Funeral Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made in Albert's memory to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, 3300 Station Ave., Center Valley, PA 18034-95637 or on their website: www.misacor-usa.org

Arrangements entrusted to Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, Ohio 44060.

Offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
7575 Bellflower Road
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-0600

Funeral Mass

JUN 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
7575 Bellflower Road
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-0600