



## Grace Richards

December 20, 1937 - March 13, 2022

Grace Richards, 84, of Concord Township, passed away Sunday, March 13, 2022. She was born December 20, 1937, in Cleveland to the late Anthony and Angela Ruggeri.

After attending Ursuline College, Grace was an elementary school teacher in the 1960's at Christ the King in East Cleveland. It was there that she met the love of her life, Dan, whose sister, Mimi, was a teacher in the classroom across the hall.

Grace lived by the motto "Live, Love, Laugh." She was a constant source of joy and love for her husband, her three sons, their wives, her grandchildren, her brother and his family, many loving aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and their families as well as countless friends. She was known as "Mom," "Grandma Grace," and "Aunt Grace" to many more than her own family.

In the 1970's and 1980's she and two of her sisters-in-law (Mimi and Ann) founded The Richards of Candlestick Lane, makers of handcrafted miniatures and dollhouse furniture. Their works were featured in magazines and were sold around the world. In the late 1980's, she was a co-owner of Vignettes, a popular home furnishing and interior decorating store located in Eaton Collection.

Her civic involvement included Mentor Junior Women's Club, Service League, and the Lake County History Center, where she authored and performed in productions about women's suffrage and the lives of the first ladies of the United States and where she taught a class on Native American history. She was also very involved with the Lake County Music and Drama Club, where she raised scholarship funds for children in the community.

Grace was a great Italian cook. She compiled a cookbook containing many cherished recipes, including the family cannoli recipe. For over twenty-five years the family has gathered the week before Christmas to make that recipe on what is affectionately referred to as "Cannoli Day."

Grace will be deeply and forever missed by her survivors who include her husband of 59 years, Daniel F. Richards; sons, Daniel A. (Amy), Christopher J. (Karen), and Matthew J. (Jorianne); grandchildren, Sarah, Benjamin, and Lily; brother, Robert (Jo Ann) Ruggeri and many nieces, nephews, and a large, loving extended family.

Private family services are being held. The funeral mass will be livestreamed and can be viewed at noon, Saturday, March 19, 2022, under the livestream tab at the church website: [www.sjvmentor.org](http://www.sjvmentor.org) A commemoration celebration will be held at a date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Grace may be made to the Lake County History Center: (440) 639-2945 or mail to 415 Riverside Drive, Painesville, Ohio 44077.

Arrangements entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

Offer condolences at [www.brunners.com](http://www.brunners.com)

# Tribute Wall

LN

“ *Sending all of you our condolences. Her legacy is you -her children and grandchildren. She must have been an amazing woman!*

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**Lisa Newburger** - March 19, 2022 at 06:35 PM

HP

“ *We are not only going to miss a good friend that we loved, but was fun to be around, always forthright and a wonderful personality. We always looked forward to the parties and the family get togethers that would give us the opportunity to visit with Grace and Dan and enjoy their company and of course Grace's comments. She had a smile that would light up a room. We can't replace those times but we can feel good knowing that she is resting in a better place, enjoying and sharing eternal happiness..*

*Our deepest sympathy to Dan, his Sons and the Family.*

*Sincerely, Steve and Helen Parisi*

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**Helen Parisi** - March 19, 2022 at 11:48 AM

SP

“ *Aunt Grace was an empowering presence to see when entering a room. The kind of matriarch who insisted on everyone around her having confidence and feeling good about themselves no matter the circumstances. The examples are limitless, but suffice to say we should all be comforted to know she is now a strong advocate for those she loved in heaven. I'll miss you, Aunt Grace.*

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**Stephen A Parisi** - March 19, 2022 at 08:55 AM

MW

“ A.sad day for all .Grace was our dear, dear friend and will not be forgotten.What great memories.I think of our the fun times and then my tears turn to smiles!

*Wish We could be with you and give each Richard a big hug.*

*I truly.loved your mom,boys, and to you Dan, you know what Grace meant to.me.*

*Love and prayers to you all*

*Marsha and Jim*

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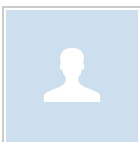
**Marsha and Jim Wooster** - March 18, 2022 at 09:05 PM



“ I can't say enough how much Mrs Richards and the whole family means to me. They are my true 2nd family. I can remember so many Sunday mornings after sleeping over that Mrs Richards would come down and make us get up and go to church. Usually followed by brunch in their home. She always made me feel so welcome and I am sad that the last communication was over Thanksgiving. I love you guys so much and will be here for anything you need. Grace was one of a kind.

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**Glen Somsen** - March 18, 2022 at 12:30 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Grace Richards.



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March 18, 2022 at 12:29 PM

FF

“ *From The Weber Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Grace Richards.*



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**From The Weber Family** - March 18, 2022 at 11:15 AM

TW

“ I'm not really sure where to start this, so here goes... I was deeply saddened to hear of this news, but I take comfort in knowing Mrs Richards is with God in heaven. I grew up with Matt, and the Richards house was like a second home for me, and particularly in high school. Matt, Chris, Danny, and Mr & Mrs Richards all felt like a second family to me. I spent countless evenings and weekends there. We would stay up until all hours of the night- and usually we were reminded of how loud we were by Mrs Richards late (or early, depending on how you saw it). But every morning we would wake up, and she would have breakfast ready - with a smiling face - along with a few playful jabs for how loud we were the night before. There was always love. Their house was seemingly always open to us (me, and Matt's other friends). I read the beautiful words and realized that there were so many things about Mrs Richards that I never knew, but from what I knew of her - my experiences - I can say that I am not surprised about how much of an impact that she had on the broader community. She was "just" Matt's mom to us - but in that role she was amazing. So loving, so giving, so caring... so everything. The experiences that I had in the Richards Home helped to shape me into who I am today - many decades later. Mrs Richards had so much influence there... She was loved and she will be deeply missed.

You have my sincerest sympathies. No one can take away the grief that you are all feeling, but I hope you find some comfort in knowing how many lives she touched and how loved she was - and will continue to be. God bless you all, and God bless Mrs Richards.

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**Todd Weber** - March 18, 2022 at 11:14 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Grace Richards.*



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March 17, 2022 at 08:40 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Grace Richards.*



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March 17, 2022 at 07:08 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to the entire Richards Family. Matt and I were great friends growing up and I had spent many a night sleeping over their house as a child. Always enjoyed her cooking and her beautiful smile and soft voice. Such a life well lived indeed. Again, my heartfelt condolences to the entire family. My God welcome her into Heaven with open arms. Godspeed Mrs. Richards*

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**John Wiertel** - March 17, 2022 at 03:50 AM



*How do you condense all of your wonderful memories into one paragraph? Grace was such a good friend to me and in the better part of the 40 years of being her hairdresser, I feel I know everyone in her life! ( all good) I'm sure all of her wonderful traditions will be carried on buy her next generation! She will truly be missed....💕🙏*

*God bless, Linda*

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**Linda Kunash** - March 18, 2022 at 10:10 AM

GI

*Sorry to hear of Grace passing. Met her at Cleveland Clinic, where she shared a room with my mom. My Condolences 🙏 to the family.*

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**Glenda Irvin** - March 18, 2022 at 12:37 PM

GS

*Always remember feeling so welcome in that home. She was definitely my second mother. She definitely had an impact on my life (and I'm sure many other's)*

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**Glen Somsen** - March 18, 2022 at 01:05 PM