



Richard Thomas Pritchard

October 3, 1930 - April 28, 2026

Richard Thomas Pritchard, 95, of Concord Twp., passed away April 28, 2026 at Danbury Assisted Living, Mentor. He was born October 3, 1930 in Cleveland to the late Howard and Alice Pritchard. Richard and Sarah settled in Euclid where they raised their family until moving to Concord Twp. in 2002.

Richard attended East High School in Cleveland, graduating in 1949. He attended Case Western Reserve University for two years, majoring in business administration. During that time, he worked in the business offices of the Cleveland Press as a junior accountant, before joining the Army during the Korean war serving from 1951-1953. After the war, he worked for RCA and was Vice President of the Cleveland Credit Bureau before deciding he wanted to open his own business. Richard, his wife and family opened Pritchards Dairy Queen in Mentor in 1972 and Putt-a-Round where he was Mr. P. to all his employees. The Dairy Queen was consistently one of the top stores in the country for sales and always on the Lake County Dept. of Health cleanest stores. They remained the owner for almost 30 years before retiring. After retiring, he was able to enjoy his grandchildren and participating in their activities. He also enjoyed watching the Guardians, Cavaliers, and the Browns. Gardening and feeding the birds were also a favorite way to enjoy retirement.

Survivors include his wife of 73 years, Sarah Pritchard (nee: Philippone);

children, Debra (Mark Pugh) Kandalec, Nancy Pritchard and John (Dawn) Pritchard; grandchildren, Jason (Shayla) Kandalec, Julie Kandalec, Jeremy (fiancée, Sarah Bennett) Pritchard and Jordan (Hailey) Pritchard; great granddaughter, Emma Grace Pritchard; nephews, Don (Carol) Pritchard and Dick Pritchard and many other loving family members and friends.

Preceding Richard in death are his siblings, Howard (Florence) Pritchard, Dorothy (Bob) Goldsworth, William (Liz) Pritchard and infant sister, Margaret Pritchard; sister-in-law, Mildred Pritchard and niece, Dorothy (Ben) Waddington.

The family wishes to thank Reserve Care Hospice, the Everblue team, for the wonderful care they gave dad in his final months. Special thanks to Dianna, Rick, Stephanie, Kevin, Audre, Lisa and Amy.

Private family services were held with entombment in All Souls Cemetery, Chardon.

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

Offer condolences at www.brunners.com

Tribute Wall

SS

“ I'm so sorry to learn of Mr. P's passing. He was a delight to work with at the Dairy Queen, and was a terrific mentor to all who worked there. I will always have fond memories of him. My heart goes out to the entire family.

Susan Steinicke

Susan Steinicke - May 18 at 09:21 PM

JH

“ It was indeed a pleasure to know Dick. He was a devoted member of the Mentor community all his life. When Ted asked him to become involved with the Mentor Performing Concert series, he became a vital member of the board. He was always a diligent worker and a devoted member of his family. May you cherish the memories of a full life.

Jane Hieronymus

Jane Hieronymus - May 13 at 07:34 PM

LL

“ So sorry to hear about Mr. Pritchard. He was a favorite of all of the students and teachers at Rice Elem. Always friendly and accommodating when we visited the DQ. Teachers and staff went there often for a quick lunch(we only had 23-30 min after getting our students to lunch, but they were quick and we had time to enjoy our food). Our Rice students will always remember walking there in the spring for the free ice cream cone treats that he and the family gave to all students within walking distance of the DQ on Lakeshore. We knew the end of the school year was near when we were invited for ice cream He visited us during career week at Rice to talk. His grandson, Jason, was in my class a long while ago and I have had the recent pleasure of talking to his daughter while shopping. Again we shared great memories of Rice, Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard and the DQ on Lakeshore. Linda Lanese

Linda Lanese - May 08 at 01:22 PM

MW

“ I was one of the first employees at Pritchards Dairy Queen. Mr. And Mrs. P were great to the MHS students accommodating school schedules. I took the first Brazier order when they opened and Dolly cooked! RIH Mr. P. Well done good and faithful servant.

Missy Kendrick Wallace - May 07 at 06:10 AM

MS

“ Wow, so many memories of working at DQ, so many life lessons from Mr. P that set me up for success in the world. I feel so fortunate to have had my first job at a place where I could learn so much. My condolences to the Pritchard family. I know there are so many who are better people for having worked with Mr. P.

Mark Scott - May 05 at 11:42 PM

RS

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Pritchard family. Mr. P taught us many valuable life lessons and a strong work ethic. He will always have a special place in my heart. The Pritchard DQ is the gold standard! Happy to have had many years of DQ memories!

Renee Sferra - May 05 at 08:38 PM

NC

“ Pritchard Family, so sorry for your loss. My family visited the DQ on many occasions especially during baseball season. My prayers are for all of you at this time. Jeremy and Jordan hope you both are doing well. Mrs. Covelli

Nancy Covelli - May 05 at 06:06 PM

PV

I remember going to Dairy Queen and seeing his dad working there too. I also went to school with his John and wife Dawn. My deepest condolences and my thoughts and prayers goes out to you John and your family too 🙏. Patty Biats Vinkler.

Patricia Vinkler - May 06 at 08:55 AM

DB

“ So many great memories of Mr. and Mrs. P—my very first job ever. Everyone still attributes my work ethic to my years with the DQ team. We worked hard and played hard, and had so much fun along the way.

I can't begin to express how sad this is... but what a truly wonderful life. Dilly Bars will never taste the same.

Debi Ledford Belmar - May 05 at 01:12 PM

SB

“ Where can I begin to describe all the great memories I have of working during my high school years at Pritchard's DQ! Mr. and Mrs. P. instilled in us a great work ethic, but we also had a lot of fun! I still talk of the memories and will treasure them always.

Sue Billhardt - May 05 at 11:44 AM