



Richard L. "Dick" Parker

May 27, 1932 - August 29, 2021

Richard L. Parker, 89, of Penney Farms and formerly of St. Augustine, died Sunday, August 29, in St. Vincent's Hospital, Middleburg, following an arduous two-week battle with Covid.

Born in Batavia, New York on May 27, 1932, Dick was the son of the late Leonard and Mary Parker. Over his lifetime he enjoyed two careers, first in pastoral ministry and later in institutional development, serving non-profits throughout the country. He and Jean (Rehmeyer Parker), his surviving wife of 45 years, moved to St. Augustine in 1984, and several years ago they retired to Penney Farms.

Dick was ordained by the American Baptist Convention after receiving his Master of Divinity degree from Gordon-Conwell Seminary, Hamilton, MA, and he pastored churches in Maine, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania from the late 1950s to the early 1970s before launching a successful 35-year career as a fundraising consultant. He was a pastor at heart, and his genuine love for others ideally suited him to both professions. He was a vital, energetic guy who always had a smile for you.

Dick and Jean shared a passion for small group ministry, and throughout the past 35 years countless people were positively impacted by their compassion, kindness, and wisdom. Their love for Jesus and other people bound their hearts in ministry and marriage. Dick adored Jean. She was the love of his

life.

Dick loved to be active, whether playing golf, visiting Jean's and his kids and grandkids, helping people in need, doing yard work, or traveling the country. He was adventurous, and in retirement Jean and he traveled extensively throughout America and Europe. They were a great pair: gracious hosts, teammates in ministry, and road warriors who knew how to have a good time. In retirement, when all the travel was finished, Dick and Jean most enjoyed special times with their children and grandchildren. To them he was a caring, generous, positive, warm, and welcoming father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, always smiling, planning fun things at the spur of the moment, and making jokes with a twinkle in his eye, suntanned and happy. We will terribly miss his warm, strong hugs and his loud, full-of-life laugh.

Surviving Dick are two children, Tom (Lois) and Joy; his sister Carole (Jim); and five stepchildren, Ron (Suzanne), Denise (Rob), Karen (Ken), Julie (Mike), and Sue (Brian). He is survived by 15 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, plus many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Leonard; and his youngest son, Daniel.

A funeral service will be held at 11 am on Monday, September 13, 2021 at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080. Interment will follow at Craig Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Dick's memory may be made to Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080, and designated for the church's State Road 16 ministry; or to Penney Farms Retirement Community, 3495 Hoffman Street, Penney Farms, FL 32079, and designated for the Residents Aid Fund. Because of the current spike in the COVID 19 infections, the family is requesting all attendees to please wear a mask to the service. Those unable to attend can view the service live streamed on our facebook page: ww

[w.facebook.com/stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsfamilyfuneralhome.com) .

St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Craig Memorial Park

2600 Old Moultrie Rd
St Augustine, FL 32086

Previous Events

Funeral Service

SEP **13**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Anastasia Baptist Church
1650 A1A South
St. Augustine, FL 32080

Tribute Wall



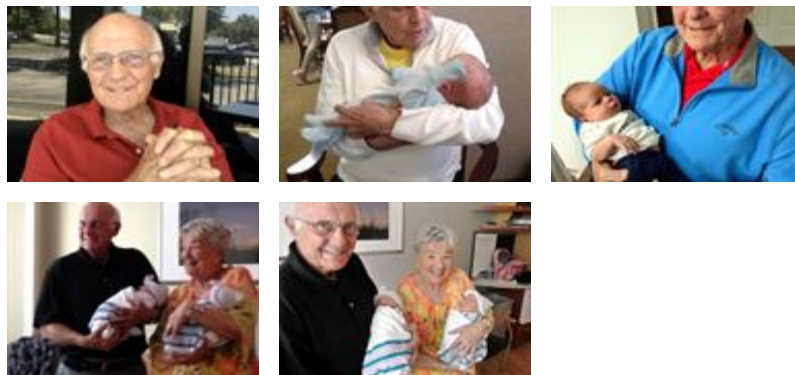
“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard L. "Dick" Parker*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - September 11, 2021 at 05:20 PM



“ *82 files added to the album Life Tributes*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - September 11, 2021 at 05:17 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Richard L. "Dick" Parker.*

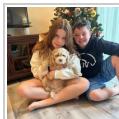


September 10, 2021 at 04:23 PM

TP

“ For the past 30 years, my Dad was my good friend. We were separated by 900 miles but between our visits to St. Augustine and his and Jean's visits to Pennsylvania, we would often call each other just to talk, and we would sometimes talk for an hour or more about whatever came up, from matters of faith, family relationships, our personal challenges, politics, our aspirations, successes, failures, and golf. He could be somber and serious one moment, and have me doubled over in laughter the next. I envied his heart for people and I came to see that he was a pastor in the true sense of the term. His pure, simple love for Jesus and his gratitude for God's grace in his life were always evident. He privileged me with a window into his spiritual journey, and I learned more from him about God's grace and mercy than he knew. He was a mentor to me in many ways, a true Father, someone I admired and respected and loved, and I'm glad I took time on several occasions over the past few years to share my feelings with him. I have no regrets other than his untimely and unexpected passing, but I will miss him terribly. Yet when I think of him in the arms of Jesus, who he has loved and faithfully served for many years, and when I realize he's finally able to reunion with his parents and his brother and his son, my brother, and many other loved ones who have gone before him, I'm glad for him and I realize this is the wonderful fulfillment of a life well lived.

Tom Parker - September 10, 2021 at 12:09 PM



❤️😭❤️ beautiful.

Laura Furman - September 15, 2021 at 02:07 AM

TT

“ 14 files added to the album Memories Album



Terry Terezakis - September 09, 2021 at 10:32 PM

MG

“ Dick was one of the first people we met at Anastasia 16 Church. He had us in a lifegroup lickety split and helped us feel like we belonged. Loving and helping people was his and Jean's passion. Jean and family, Dick will be sorely missed, not only by us, but by so many others whose lives he touched. Praying for you during this time.

Frank and Melanie Gray

Melanie Gray - September 09, 2021 at 09:25 PM

MW

“ What a beautiful soul. Blessed to have known you.

Marcus Williams - September 08, 2021 at 08:06 PM

DO

“ We are so sorry for your loss!! Dick was an incredible godly man! Dan and I both loved him and Jean dearly. They have always been such a great godly example for us. Dick was so great at asking direct, sincere questions and we didn't mind because we knew he was asking out of love and concern! Dick will be greatly missed!! Know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers!

Donna Ott - September 08, 2021 at 01:24 PM

LM

“ I had the privilege of working with Dick early in my fundraising career. His peaceful reassurance and gentle guidance helped me develop into a successful professional. When I traveled to visit Dick's clients, I could always count on a warm welcome from him and Jean. And whenever we spoke in recent years he was a kind cheerleader. I am grateful that we shared a portion of our journey together and send my condolences--and gratitude--to the Parker family. -- Laura MacDonald

Laura MacDonald - September 08, 2021 at 08:27 AM