



## Richard F. Pilichowski

January 3, 1954 - September 29, 2021

Richard F. Pilichowski (Rick) age 67, of Wilmington, DE, gained his wings on Wednesday, September 29, 2021.

Family was everything to Rick. He had a heart of gold and enjoyed the simple things in life, from barbecues and beach trips to fishing, and time at home with his family. You could always find Rick either in the kitchen or in the woods. He loved to cook constantly and go on hikes with his German Shepherd. And, no matter his location, he would always be jamming to some classic rock.

He enjoyed playing Santa Clause for his many nieces, nephews, and grandchildren at his yearly Christmas Eve party.

Rick attended Wilmington High School and won the State Basketball Championship with the class of 1972. He acquired the nickname Pistol Pete for his moves on the court and received a college scholarship. After attending college, he later became a youth coach at various local schools.

He was extremely passionate about his service with the U.S. Wardogs Association and Paws for People. He attended countless events and fundraisers and visited hospitals to perform pet therapy. He received multiple awards, including the Animal Hero Award and Distinguished Service Award, for his continued dedication.

Rick is also a published author. He wrote a book, titled TEAM, about the unique bond between a soldier and his service dog. He traveled to book signings with his dog, which, in turn, would also raise money for the organizations he served.

Richard was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend to many. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Margaret (Nasatka); daughters Krista (Michael) and Stephanie (Stanley); granddaughters Amelia and Paige; and brother Henry. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Hedwig.

A visitation will be held Thursday, October 7, 2021, from 9:30-11AM at Strano & Feeley Funeral Home, 635 Churchmans Rd., Newark, DE 19702 followed by a service in celebration of Rick's life at 11 AM. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent in Rick's memory to the U.S. Wardogs Association, 1313 Mt. Holly Rd. Burlington, NJ 08016.

Burial will be private. To send an online condolence, visit [www.stranofeeley.com](http://www.stranofeeley.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Cathedral Cemetery

2400 Lancaster Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19805

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 7. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home  
635 Churchmans Rd  
Newark, DE 19702  
(302) 731-5459  
info@stranofeeley.com

## Service

OCT 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home  
635 Churchmans Rd  
Newark, DE 19702  
(302) 731-5459  
info@stranofeeley.com

# Tribute Wall

GC

“ *My sincerest condolences to the Pilichowski family . I worked with Rick at Atlas Point for 31 years . there was never a dull moment while working with Rick . Rick could keep you laughing no matter how bad your day was going . RIP Rick . Glenn Caskey*

---

**Glenn Caskey** - October 06, 2021 at 05:19 PM

SC

“ *Salina Crossland lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Pilichowski*



---

**Salina Crossland** - October 06, 2021 at 12:17 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard F. Pilichowski.*



---

October 06, 2021 at 09:11 AM

JB

“ I remember Rich very well as we both attended Wilmington High School in the early 70's. He was an excellent basketball player and starting member of the 1972 WHS State Championship Team and he was affectionately known as "Pistol Pete Maravich" after the famous NBA star of the time. Besides that, he was an all around great guy and most of all a good friend. We reconnected with each other at an impromptu WHS mini reunion at Cunningham's Pub a few years ago and have been face book friends ever since. I am so saddened by the loss of Rich and my thoughts, prayers and condolences go out to his family at this most difficult time. He will be dearly missed by all that knew him!

---

**John P Barbieri** - October 05, 2021 at 03:56 PM

ES

“ Richard was a dear soul and always very pleasant whenever I would see him at work. We spoke often of retirement and our plans. May GOD's love surround the entire family and bring you comfort, yes he will be missed!!!



*E. M. Saunders (Wilmington High Class of 1972)*

---

**E M Saunders** - October 02, 2021 at 04:04 PM

TD

“ Prayers and condolences to the family from the Dugans

---

**Thomas Dugan** - October 02, 2021 at 01:56 PM

MC

“ *My Heart Hurts To Hear Of Our Pistol Pete’s Passing. I Was A W.H.S Cheerleader & We Cheered Loud & Hard For Pistol Pete! We Loved Rick. I Was Looking Forward To Our 50th Class Reunion So We Can Talk And Go Down Memory Lane. He Joined Us Always!  
We’ll Keep The Cheers Going For You Richard! You Were One Of Our Stars Then & Now! Family He Will Always Be With YOU! God Is Your Refuge Find Comfort InHis Care. My Condolences, Prayers & Blessings Always!*

*Mabel (Roberts) Cole*

---

**Mabel Cole** - October 02, 2021 at 08:02 AM

MC

“ *Mabel Cole lit a candle in memory of Richard F. Pilichowski*



---

**Mabel Cole** - October 02, 2021 at 07:43 AM

JK

“ *Rich and I go way back. We graduated from St. Paul's Elementary School in 1968 and Wilmington High School in 1972. He's contribution to WHS's basketball championship was legendary. I would often see him in the State Office Building where we both worked. I attended a few of the War Dog events. Rich's dedication to War Dogs was so impressive. I read his book TEAM and all I could say was "wow!" His Facebook posts about Gunner always made me smile. His love for Peggy and all his girls was there for all to see. He will be missed by many. Rest in peace my dear friend.*

---

**Johnette Puglisi Kirk** - October 01, 2021 at 07:41 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Richard F. Pilichowski.* ”



---

October 01, 2021 at 05:04 PM