



Richard E. "Dick" Day

February 7, 1929 - December 28, 2023

Richard E. "Dick" Day, 94, of Akron and Rochester, Indiana passed Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023 at Life Care Center of Rochester, Indiana.

Dick was born on Feb. 7, 1929 to the late Joseph and Helen (Miller) Day. He was a 1946 graduate of Akron High School. As an elementary student he helped the janitor after school and delivered the South Bend Tribune. In junior high and high school he played the drums in the school band and basketball. He carried both those activities into adulthood.

After school Dick attended Coine Electrical School in Chicago. He then returned to Akron and began working for the Erie Railroad in the signal department. He was sent to several locations before being transferred to Hammond, Ind. where he worked until returning to Akron in 1963.

On Sept. 4, 1947, in Indianapolis, he married Julia "Judy" Ann Bidwell. Soon after daughter Pam was born, followed by son Joe while living in Hammond. Dick also worked painting for local contractors around Hammond. He also completed the entire second story of their home after contractors added it.

In 1963, Dick and Judy purchased what became Day Hardware, which is now the oldest hardware in Indiana. He was a people person and a man of many skills, which led to his success as a hardware owner. Dick was active in the

Akron community. He was a member of the Akron Chamber of Commerce, Akron Lions Club, longtime member of the Akron United Methodist Church, and the 4th of July Committee. He was honored as the parade Grand Marshal twice. He also was affiliated with the Republican Party. During his early years in business he began golfing once a week with other businessmen. It was a hobby he enjoyed his whole life. Dick and Judy began traveling to Florida in the winter in the 1970's. Sadly Judy preceded him in death on March 14, 1996.

His golfing friends introduced him to Georgia Ann Delp. He married her on September 28, 2002 at the Rochester City Golf Course on the 18th green. They enjoyed being together for many years. She preceded him on June 10, 2021. They loved playing golf, traveling, and wintering in Florida. They loved to watch the grandchildren in all their activities, especially sports. They enjoyed watching college basketball, especially IU.

Over the years, Dick worked with his son in the Hardware. He still came to the Hardware in his later years replacing window screens or just to visit with friends. In addition to mentoring his family, he was a big part of many young people's lives through the Hardware. In his 90's his health began to fail. His final years were at Life Care Center of Rochester. The family appreciated all the care and kindness at the nursing home and from Gentiva. His wisdom and love will be missed not only by family but also by many people who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his children Pamela Vandermark of Akron and Joe and wife Marianne Day of Akron; grandchildren Leann and husband John Carr of Akron, David and wife Angela Madeford of Akron, Scott and wife Tiffany Cooksey, Akron, Kevin and wife Carrie Cooksey of Silver Lake, Jared Vandermark, Shreveport, Louisiana; great grandchildren Devin wife Kaylyn Madeford, Thane Madeford, Bryce Madeford, Ian, Lillian, Blake, and Ella

Cooksey, Alyxandria; and great great Hudson, Sawyer, Aubree, and Preslee; and step children David wife Caren Delp and John and wife Jennifer Delp.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents, both wives Judy and Georgia Ann, grandson Patrick Day, and son-in-laws Joey Madeford and Jim Vandermark.

The funeral service will take place at 10:30 am, Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024 at Hartzler Funeral Home, Akron, IN with Pastor Rev. Tara Hornbacker and Jim Saner officiating.

The interment will take place in the Akron Cemetery, Akron, Indiana next to his wife Judy.

Visitation hours will be held from 3:00 p m to 8 p m, Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024 at Hartzler Funeral Home, Akron, Indiana.

Memorial contributions can be made in his memory to the Henry Twp. Fire Dept., Akron Cemetery Association and Akron Community Center.

Cemetery Details

Akron Cemetery

S 1075 E
Akron, IN 46910

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hartzler Funeral Home
305 West Rochester Street
P.O. Box 856
Akron, IN 46910
(574) 893-4423
info@hartzlerfuneralservices.com
<https://www.hartzlerfuneralservices.com>

Funeral Service

JAN 3. 10:30 AM (ET)

Hartzler Funeral Home
305 West Rochester Street
P.O. Box 856
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Tribute Wall



“ Hartzler Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard E. "Dick" Day



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 01, 2024 at 10:50 AM

FS

“ The Day family, Joe and Helen, were very important in my early years. I spent many days in the Day household. I lived with the family during my sophomore year of high school at Akron High. My older sister Mary Lou (Singpiel) and Dick were very close high school friends. When Mary Lou passed in 1979, I spent two nights with Dick and Judy. Again, evidence of the kindness and generosity that came from Dick and his family. The Day family will always have a place in my heart. I want to express my condolences to the family. Sincerely, Frankie (Singpiel) Sparks

Frankie (Singpiel) Sparks - January 07, 2024 at 11:23 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard E. "Dick" Day.



January 02, 2024 at 10:33 AM



“ Gary Ellenwood & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard E. "Dick" Day.

Gary Ellenwood & family - January 02, 2024 at 10:33 AM



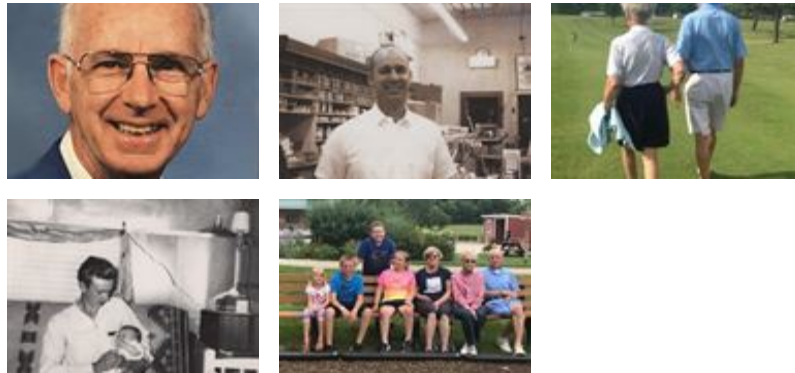
“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Richard E. "Dick" Day.



January 02, 2024 at 10:28 AM



“ 126 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hartzler Funeral Services - January 01, 2024 at 10:52 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard E. "Dick" Day.*



December 31, 2023 at 10:23 PM



“ *Denise Swick Murray lit a candle in memory of Richard E. "Dick" Day*



Denise Swick Murray - December 31, 2023 at 10:14 AM



“ *Joe, I am sorry for your loss. Your dad was always so nice and I know he will be missed. My thoughts and prayers to you and your family.*

Denise Swick Murray - December 31, 2023 at 10:14 AM



“ *Pam, Joe, and your families, we are saddened to learn of your dad's passing. He truly loved Akron and showed it by his actions.*

Bill & Miriam Ruppel - December 30, 2023 at 08:00 PM

TB

“ As a child my mom, Rosie Young would take me into Day’s Hardware. Dick became a familiar person I knew I could trust. In 1983, now a young adult living on my own and making minimum wage, my hairdryer broke. It was the middle of winter, I have long thick hair and no way to dry it. I went to Dick and asked him if he would let me make payments on a hairdryer. He did. I don’t remember the dollar amount but I remember his kindness. I have shared that story so many times; the value of kindness and trust goes a long way in the world we share with others. Thank you Dick for being a part of my life’s story.
A life well lived. ❤️
Tammy Young Bennett, Greentown

Tammy Bennett - December 30, 2023 at 07:42 PM

MS

“ God bless the Day family.

Martha Sutkowski - December 30, 2023 at 07:13 PM

KA

“ I met Dick when my mom was at LCC. I’ve helped him during Bingo. I have a hard time remembering names. So the day Dick told me his name was Richard, I associated it with Richard Nixon. So I mentally remembered him as Tricky Dicky. The next day, I said "Hello, Tricky Dicky!" He got a big chuckle from it. What a brave guy he was!! My uncle died of ALS. It’s a scary disease to go through. God Bless you, Dick! And my condolences to Dick’s family. He was well liked at LCC.

Kathy Amor - December 30, 2023 at 06:04 PM

DG

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Dick. He was a very kind and friendly gentleman. I have many fond memories of Dick growing up and being in the hardware.(Dick and Judy both) As a matter of fact. When I was little and would go into the hardware with mom, I would always come up missing. lol! Dick would say, Sue Ellen, I know where he's at. He come right back and find me. I'd be back by the vacuum cleaners looking at the. lol! Again, Pam and Joe and your families, you have my sincere and deepest sympathies. May God give you all comfort and peace during this difficult time. Your father was a wonderful man.

Dan Gagnon - December 30, 2023 at 04:30 PM

PG

“ Peggy A. Groninger-Murphy lit a candle in memory of Richard E. "Dick" Day



Peggy A. Groninger-Murphy - December 30, 2023 at 01:45 PM

KR

“ Kathy Rocchio lit a candle in memory of Richard E. "Dick" Day



Kathy Rocchio - December 30, 2023 at 12:32 PM

JW

“ *Judy Walgamuth lit a candle in memory of Richard E. "Dick" Day*



Judy Walgamuth - December 30, 2023 at 08:03 AM

MC

“ *Marilyn Cleveland lit a candle in memory of Richard E. "Dick" Day*



Marilyn Cleveland - December 29, 2023 at 08:41 PM

SB

“ *Shirley Bickel lit a candle in memory of Richard E. "Dick" Day*



Shirley Bickel - December 29, 2023 at 05:02 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Richard E. "Dick" Day.*



December 29, 2023 at 04:16 PM

TN

“ Thane & Nick planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard E. "Dick" Day.

Thane & Nick - December 29, 2023 at 04:16 PM

PE

“ Would always meet him on the walking trails at hospital we would stop and talk to each other . A dear sweet gentleman. He will be missed.

Pat Eber - December 29, 2023 at 02:38 PM

JW

“ Judy Walgamuth lit a candle in memory of Richard E. "Dick" Day



Judy Walgamuth - December 29, 2023 at 01:51 PM