



Dr. Richard Bernard Morrison

October 26, 1947 - November 23, 2025

Dr. Richard “Doc” Morrison, 78, died Sunday November 23, surrounded by his family at the Ball Hospice House in Sault Ste Marie. He was proudly born in Pickford, Michigan, in October 1947 to Webster and Kathryn Morrison at the Hol Haven Farm.

He is survived by his wife Sarah, sons Daniel (Hilary), Carl, and Paul, grandsons Finlay and Robin, and siblings Carol, Dave (Dianne), John (Cathy), Don (Marcela), and Roger.

Despite polio in infancy, he refused to let anything hold him back. His unique, happy, helpful cheerfulness was the expression of a determined positivity and a heart free of malice and complaint.

Richard grew up on Dewey Street in Pickford, among the many other children with whom he would become lifelong friends. He was frequently on his bike, baseball glove in hand, always ready to play ball. His very first job was selling worms for bait. He attended Pickford Schools where he pole vaulted, played baseball, and was proud to be on the basketball team that made it to the Michigan State Championship.

He graduated from Pickford High School as valedictorian in 1965 and then attended Michigan State University, working at the Soo Creamery during the

summers. He graduated with a B.S in Science with Honor and a Master of Arts for Education in Physics in 1970.

He spent the next four years teaching science and math at Flint Bentley High School where he helped form and coach their first hockey team, the Bentley Bulldogs. He also played for the Mt. Morris Sports Barn, in the Slo-Puck league where he was known as “Hat-Trick Dick.” During this time in Flint, he bought a pair of three-wheeled golf carts to introduce rentals to Pickford’s Munoscong Golf Club.

After losing a tooth in one of his hockey games, his dentist suggested applying to dental school. He returned to Pickford to complete some prerequisites at LSSC (now LSSU) and worked in bookkeeping at O’Connor’s auto dealership. He was accepted to the University of Michigan Dental School in 1976. During those summers, he worked doing fluoride treatments for the U.P., painting at the Cedarville Quarry, and serving at the University of Michigan Dental Clinic.

While in Ann Arbor, Dick was encouraged by a classmate to join the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society’s theatrical production of Princess Ida, where he met his future wife, Sarah in what he once referred to as a “backstage romance.” They married in 1980 in Ann Arbor.

He returned to Pickford to practice Dentistry in 1980. The famous Singing Dentist of Pickford served the community far and wide from his practice on Main Street in his beloved hometown until his retirement 40 years later. He took great joy in working with the many talented staff members and colleagues who shared his dedication to their patients.

Growing a dental practice, starting a family, renovating an old house, and growing a garden was not enough to contain Dick’s boundless energy. He was

elected to the Board of Education, was active in the Sault District Dental Society, Pickford Lions Club, and Pickford Business Association. He served on the Volunteer Ambulance Corps for over a decade. He was an elder, choir member and Sunday school music leader in the Pickford Presbyterian Church. He announced high school football games, was chairman of the Pickford Township Planning Commission, and spokesman for the Pickford Volunteer Skunk Patrol.

He was a long-serving chairman of Pickford Community Days, then Pickford Hay Days. He delighted in donning a top hat and leading groups of kids and adults in singing and silliness. He was adept at snagging many volunteers to help move a stage, judge a parade, hand out 10k medals, or be a pooper scooper (because “you need horses in a parade!”).

He helped spearhead the creation of the Pickford Area Historical Society (Pickford Museum) and served as co-treasurer. He and Sarah chaired the Steering Committee for the Arts Center at Lake State and served on the building committee of the Pickford Community Library.

He was involved in music and theatre in Sault Ste. Marie, Cedarville, and DeTour. He had major roles in *The Mikado*, *My Fair Lady*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Fantastics*, *Oliver*, and too many more to list, often rehearsing while working on patients. He was an excellent self-taught guitarist, violinist, and banjo player. He sang as a talented and strong tenor. He regularly joined the Pickford Pickers, and he was playing and singing until his last few days.

Many kids and adults knew Dick as the Ice Meister of Pickford’s Ice Rink. For years, he had a large rink behind his house with full boards, lights, and a warming shed. Eventually he moved the rink to the Township Park, where a

roof helped keep the sun and snow off. He would regularly wake at 4AM to flood the rink in the coldest hours; he considered it a spiritual experience. He would often help find skates or hockey sticks for kids that needed them, or help sharpen their skates. The rink was a joy, never a chore.

He continued playing with Soo Amateur Hockey. He delighted in making the perfect pass or skating past players to score the occasional "hat trick" well into his 60s.

Outdoor activity was an everyday thing. He biked to work every day, no matter the weather. In the summers he was an avid sailor, windsurfer and paddler. He was a regular golfer and even introduced Golf Bikes to the Munoscong Golf Club if just to make his own outings more of a workout.

He was blessed to spend many happy summers at the lake with his family, nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Even in relaxation, he never stopped moving, raking leaves, pressing cider, building rafts, treehouses, and a tiki hut, or finding the perfect marshmallow stick.

He recently came out of retirement to work as a dentist for the Michigan Department of Corrections two days a week. He enjoyed the work, his co-workers, and helping out where there was a need.

Dick lived a life that was filled to the brim and full of joy and song. Anyone who spent time with him was fortunate to feel the electricity of his enthusiasm and energy.

A service will be held on Saturday, December 13 at 11AM in the Pickford Presbyterian Church with a light meal to follow.

In lieu of flowers, consider a gift to Ball Hospice House and in his generous

spirit, please get involved and/or donate to community organizations that bring you joy.

Family Life Funeral Homes – Pickford assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be given to the family at www.familylifefh.com.

Obituary as submitted by family

Cemetery Details

Bethel Cemetery

S. M-129
Pickford Township, MI 49774

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pickford Presbyterian Church
M-129 and John Street
Pickford, MI 49774

Tribute Wall

DM

“ *I truly enjoyed the times I played music with Dick. He was funny and put lots of energy in his efforts.*

David Morrison - December 21, 2025 at 09:36 PM

DM

David -- So good to hear you played music with my brother, Dick. Music brought him so much joy!

David J. Morrison - December 29, 2025 at 04:20 PM

JH

“ *Dear Sarah and family members:
The obituary posted records for all to see that Dick had a life well lived. I knew Dick in his early life throughout my time in Pickford schools and only later when he became the local dentist , but my parents extolled his community spirit in his tiny town that needed such leadership.
I can add little to what has been written already except to note one small event that shows his true spirit. I had just published my first novel a few years ago and did a reading at the Pickford public library. There was Dick not only attending but afterwards serving apple cider and handing me a local apple.
I was touched after over 50 years since high school graduation that he was so kind and welcoming to this fledgling author.*

James Hill - December 16, 2025 at 12:41 PM

AP

“ APK purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Richard Bernard Morrison.



APK - December 12, 2025 at 05:30 PM

SS

“ The Morrisons were all wonderful, people - so many memories we all have !

SHARYLL HARRISON STEVENSON - December 12, 2025 at 05:10 PM

GH

“ Dear Sarah and Family:

My condolences to you and your Family. I'm truly sorry for your loss. Upon hearing of Dick's passing, I was reminded of so many wonderful memories of my time in the Class of 1965. So much fun and laughter! I do have some regrets for leaving Pickford, but my career forced me to travel to different construction sites in the U.S.. I think back to all the fun associated with Dick and Janet Johnson. The Class of 65 was loaded with characters, and we all know that Dick Morrison was a true character! I hope that one day, I meet up with Dr. Morrison again. Now, will I allow my ex-classmate, teammate, and friend to work on my one remaining tooth. Probably not.

Gary Hillock - December 11, 2025 at 05:04 PM

TO

“ *The Sault Symphony Orchestra purchased the Sereene Retreat for the family of Dr. Richard Bernard Morrison.*



The Sault Symphony Orchestra - December 10, 2025 at 02:39 PM

DM

“ *To Dr. Morrison's Family,*

So sorry for your loss. Dick was a friend and my dentist for 40+ years. We always had good conversations about sports, me being an ex coach and him a sports enthusiast.

He did a lot for the town of Pickford and will be missed by many. RIP Dick you were a good person and made this area a better place to live in.

*Dave Miller
DeTour Village, MI*

David F. Miller - December 01, 2025 at 04:43 PM

IA

“ *My deepest condolences on your loss.*

Illya Afanasiev - November 28, 2025 at 12:58 PM

JH

“ Dear Sarah and Family:
My deepest condolences in your loss. Dick was a classmate of 1965, and friend. As celebrated our 60th class reunion this summer, Dick was not able to make our gathering on Thurs. night, but did make the riding of the float in Hay Days, of which he and Sarah were faithful organizers for many years. Waiting for the parade to begin, it was quiet (too quiet) and I said to Dick, let's sing the school song and we al did . Made his classmates smile for sure. Your laughter, sayings, singing, acting and faithfulness to your family and community will be missed. Singing off....THANK YOU !

Joyce Henderson - November 27, 2025 at 04:42 PM

PG

“ Last September I was on a ferry in Southeast Alaska when I overheard folks talking about Cedarville, my hometown. Turns out they were from Pickford originally. Among our common acquaintances was Dick Morrison. He was their dentist and I had played with Dick on Cedarville's men's league hockey team. I remember him as an outstanding person and a great guy to play hockey with. My condolences to Dick's family, and the community, on their loss. Pete Griffin

Pete Griffin - November 27, 2025 at 01:40 PM

EB

“ I first met doctor Morrison years ago. It was on a holiday similar to this week. I had broken a molar in the back of my mouth. I looked in the phone book for different dentists and of course none of them were open except one. His name was Dr Morrison. Well I gave his phone number a call and he answered the phone. I explained to him how I had broken a molar and there was no dentist open anywhere and without hesitation he said well if you can come on out to my office I can meet you there. Well needless to say I did meet him and he did fix my tooth and he charged me what I thought was very generous. Of course everyone knows that's the way Dr Morrison always was. Through various stages of my life after I met him I would occasionally bump into him and he became my dentist. The last time I seen him was when I was working in Pickford at the Napa Ace Hardware Store. He came in and of course didn't know when to leave as he was always interested in what was going on and how I was doing. Well doctor Morrison I will miss you As well I'm sure most of Pickford if not all will say the same thing. Dr Morrison I know there's a heaven because I was saved and able to go there when I die. I would hope that anyone that knew you would appreciate your participation in his funeral. I also hope that if you don't know Christ as your savior, you take this opportunity to say a friendly word in his behalf that you might be saved and spend the rest of Eternity with him and the Lord God Almighty. Thank you Dr Morrison I will see you there, Ed

Ed Benoit - November 26, 2025 at 11:07 PM

RN

“ I first met Dick Morrison at the Pullar Stadium at the first game of men's slow puck hockey league; the beginning of a long friendship. Because he said he enjoyed working on young children for dental needs our whole family went to him, driving out to Pickford from the Soo. Dr. Morrison loved everything and was indeed a renaissance man. Theater, sports , music, Pickford days and a host of many others. His kindness and sense of humor were part of many qualities. He will be missed. The good lord made a special one here.

Roy Nason - November 26, 2025 at 04:22 PM

AK

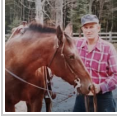
“ When I first moved up here Dr Morrison gave me a job. Funny thing... he gave all his employees jobs during Pickford Days! He gave the job to be the announcer at the children's parade!!! Oh boy! Never done that before! He was a character in the office and I'm sure outside the office! We sang show tunes to our patients.... Something I never did downstate! He was one of a kind! God has a special place for him! He will be missed....Andrea (Bonnee) Knipe

Andrea Knipe - November 26, 2025 at 03:48 PM

TH

I'd only lived in Pickford a short time, was out for a walk to explore my new surroundings and as I passed this big beautiful home with lilacs in full bloom, couldn't help myself, since those are my favorite flower, I stopped with my nose in the air taking it all in , it was soo strong and that's when Mr. Morrison and his wife pulled in. They got out smiling , I explained what I was doing and without hesitation he told me to go ahead and walk right up to it and enjoy, of course I did. Next thing I knew he was telling me all about the town, it's history and felt as if we'd known each other longer than the 15 - 20 minutes of his time he took to be kind and gracious to a newcomer to the area. I will always remember him as a kind soul. Tracey

Tracey Hartman - November 26, 2025 at 06:34 PM



A man whose conduct is guided by kindness, respect, and honor, extending courtesy to everyone regardless of their social standing. "Real Gentleman"

Darlene Muscoe - November 27, 2025 at 12:44 PM

FM

Thanks for the fantastic memories I had with you on the ice. I know your in heaven playing with the other greats. Going to miss you Dick. My condolences go out to your family, God bless you my friend.

Fred McMillan - December 01, 2025 at 12:14 PM



To Dr. Morrison's family: my deepest condolences. Dr. Morrison is one of those people who just seem larger than life. But he was such a humble, down-to-earth person you never felt intimidated by him. I didn't get the privilege of spending a lot of time with him, but the occasions I did were always a blessing. The Pickford community is poorer now for the loss of Dr. Morrison. We will all miss him terribly, but the legacy he leaves will live on long after him.

Alun Nosaj - December 03, 2025 at 04:39 PM