



James "Jimmy" M. Pitchford

February 4, 1926 - April 13, 2020

James M. "Jimmy" Pitchford went home to be with his Lord on Monday, April 13, 2020, at Inspired Living Ocoee. He was born February 4, 1926, in Scottsville, KY to Roy R. Pitchford and Frances E. Hall. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He graduated from Bowling Green College of Commerce with an Accounting degree where he met Jean Reddick of Winter Garden.

After they married in 1948, he earned his MBA at the University of Florida. They settled in Tildenville living above Reddick's Market where, after a year with the W.O. Daley Accounting firm in Orlando, he joined his father-in-law, J.S. Reddick in the grocery business. He learned that sitting behind a desk wasn't for him.

He and Jean built their home in 1953, on North Dillard St. in Winter Garden. In 1960, he left the partnership and created J&F Supermarkets, Inc. Over the years, he, along with family and dedicated employees, was able to build a small chain of Ready Market convenience stores throughout Central Florida and two supermarkets. He was grateful to the Winter Garden Development Company for giving him the opportunity to build his first supermarket, Jimmy's Thriftway, on Plant Street in 1965.

He was a long-time member of Oakland Presbyterian Church where he served as deacon, elder, and a founding member of the Men's Prayer

Breakfast. He was a past president of the Winter Garden Rotary Club, a recipient of The Paul Harris Fellow, and was bestowed the honor of Kentucky Colonel by the Governor of Kentucky. In addition, he was a director of Certified Grocers, Inc. in Ocala, president of the Florida Retail Grocers Association, a longtime member of Gator Boosters, Inc.; former member of the Bull Gator Club, and a founding member of the West Orange Country Club. He was a member of the Winter Garden Masonic Lodge #165 and the Scottish Rite Orlando.

He loved the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing and playing golf. He was a people person who loved life. His unique and infectious laugh will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his daughters: Jill Pitchford-Dunn (Larry Dunn), Jeanne Pitchford, and Kim Dannenberg (Wayne); his grandchildren: James P. "Jimmy" Dunn (Jennie) and Erin J. Pearce (Bryan); his great grandchildren: Taylor and Darby Dunn, Ethan and Avery Pearce and his loving caregiver, Trish Britton.

His celebration of life will be held at Oakland Presbyterian Church at a later date.

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Jimmy was a remarkable person. He was a good business man, and his "JIMMY'S THRIFTWAY" grocery store was a great asset to the West Orange County Community, and like any good businessman, he gave back a lot to his Community. He was always doing something for the schools, churches, civic groups, etc. Hardly a Saturday went by that he didn't reserve part of his parking lot for one of these groups to hold a car wash so that they could raise funds for their group. Never mind that it was the busiest day of the week, and he needed every car park for his own customers. Jimmy's Store had great meat and produce. Wednesday was "steak night" at the West Orange Country Club, and the rib eye steaks that Jimmy sent out were so tender you could "cut-em-with-a-fork". R.I.P. Jimmy, your effervescent personality and contagious sense of humor will be greatly missed. Jim McWhorter, Clermont, FL.

James Franklin McWhorter - April 23, 2020 at 04:15 PM

PC

“ I worked for Mr P. for 15 yrs. He was the best boss man I ever had. He always love to kid around. He will be missed.

Pat Little Colosimo - April 22, 2020 at 01:38 PM