OBITUARY FOR

RICHARD DEAN OLLEK

NOVEMBER 18, 1943 – DECEMBER 26, 2021

Richard Dean (Dick) Ollek was born on November 18, 1943, at Salem Hospital in Hillsboro, Kansas to Richard Edward and Rosa Elsa (Weinbrenner) Ollek. He was baptized on November 21, 1943, and confirmed in Zion Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, on April 14, 1957.

Dick attended his first 12 years of school in Lehigh, Kansas where he graduated with honors in 1961. He then attended Wichita Business College and Wichita State University.

On November 24, 1962, he married his high school sweetheart and love of his life, Barbara Birkle. To this marriage was born 3 children, Robyn Gruenwald (Peter) of Bel Aire, Kansas, Richard Jr. (Kelly, deceased) and Jan of Wichita, Kansas and Ronald (Marlene) of Wichita, Kansas.

Dick had a great business career spending 9 years as Administrative Manager for a company in Wichita, Kansas and then starting his own company, Mid-America Building Maintenance, Inc. in 1972, which he owned and managed until he sold it in 2005. Mid-America had been a force in the cleaning industry with offices in Kansas, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and California.

Following the sale of his company he was blessed with another career as a consultant to his industry. He was fortunate to author 4 bestselling books that received worldwide acceptance. He also recorded approximately 50 training and educational DVD's that assisted industry companies in moving their organizations forward to become more successful. His weekly podcasts were an industry staple for many years.

Until his later years, Dick was very active in his trade association, Building Service Contractors Association International where he served on the board for many years and as President in 1991. He received many awards for his positive contributions to the association.

He was a speaker at countless association functions and in addition toured the country with his daughter Robyn conducting one- and two-day seminars and workshops helping companies improve their professionalism in the industry he loved.

Probably some of the most enjoyment he received was when he and his family formed the Ollek Foundation to assist those in need. The Foundation slogan is "Helping People who Help People" and that is what the Foundation has been doing since its formation in 2017. Those who want to continue helping can contribute by going to the website at www.theollekfoundation.org or contributing to the memorial. (Dick just can't stop trying to make a sale.)

In 2020, he was admitted to Diversicare of Sedgwick, a long-term care facility in Sedgwick, Kansas. At first, Dick was resistant of the idea of a nursing home but...finding there were no Sunday morning worship services he asked if he could organize one. The first three weeks it was just Dick and God, a great duet. Then one person attended and then three and on and on it went with attendance averaging about thirteen per Sunday morning. They were affectionately known as the Wheelchair Warriors. Then Dick was asked to form a Wednesday afternoon Bible study which he did with results nearly equaling the Sunday morning service in attendance. Dick's family is convinced that Dick was placed there by God to create a Christian fellowship to advance the cause of God's saving grace.

In addition to his children, he is survived by his sister Peggy Roberts (husband Paul) of Topeka, Kansas.

He was also blessed with wonderful grandchildren and great grandchildren, namely,

Shanda Thornburg (Clint) of Wichita, Kansas

Emily Schrant (Dustin) and children Carson, Emmett, and Greyson of Columbus, Nebraska

Heather Knight (Dusty) and sons Haydn, Blaine, and daughter Kaylee of Haysville, Kansas

Rebeka Stanley (Trent) and sons Braxton and Ryker of rural Topeka, Kansas

Ryan Ollek (Charley) and daughter Willow of Lawrence, Kansas

Andrew Ollek of Wichita, Kansas

Holden Ollek and partner Megan and his son Derek and their daughter Raylene of Maize, Kansas

He is also blessed with bonus grandchildren and great grandchildren through marriage, namely,

Alyssa Howard, husband Cameron, and children Liadan, Connor, Carter, and Logan of Wichita, Kansas

Jordan Lanam, wife Heather, and daughters Natalie and Robyn of Haysville, Kansas

Dick went to join his Lord in the Church Triumphant on December 26, 2021, and now rejoices with the saints in Heaven.

No regrets.