



RICHARD "RICK" O'NEILL

Richard "Rick" O'Neill was born in Chicago, Illinois to Ralph and Genevieve O'Neill and raised in Oconto Falls, WI. Rick excelled academically and athletically at OFHS, providing impressive leadership as both a classmate and teammate.

After his 1957 OFHS graduation, Rick was offered the opportunity to play football at UW-Madison, but instead chose a more lucrative multi-sport scholarship at Lake Forest College where he lettered in football, basketball, and baseball.

Rick married his high school sweetheart, Sandra Jean Carey (OFHS '59) and together they raised three children, Kerry Richard; Erin Leigh & Kelly Ann.

After graduating from Lake Forest, Rick took a position at the State Farm Insurance home office in Bloomington, IL. His desire to pursue a career in sales led him to Appleton, WI first as a State Farm agent and eventually as an independent agent. He eventually merged with Keith Buxton to form Buxton-O'Neill Insurance, a highly successful and well-respected independent agency for more than 30 years. Rick continued his leadership roles as an active member and officer of the Wisconsin Independent Insurance Agent Association (WIIAA).

In addition to his career, Rick's profound dedication to and love of athletics continued throughout his life. He coached Little League and continued through the Babe Ruth and Semi-Professional leagues. For 25 years, Rick refereed high school and college basketball and was inducted into the Fox Cities' Officials' Association Hall of Fame in 1998. He was especially honored to officiate several WIAA State basketball tournaments as well as any chance to referee with one of his best friends, Gordon Bass. Some of his fondest memories include on-court bantering with the likes of Bo Ryan at UW-Platteville and Dick Bennett at UW-Green Bay.

Rick is a very proud Papa to five exceptional grandchildren – Jenna Leigh, Taylor Jean, Patrick Richard, Connor Steven and Troy Douglas. He cherishes all time spent with family and friends, particularly at his beloved Boulder Lake cottage. "It doesn't get any better than this."