



Richard L. Palke

DEC 3, 1946 - DEC 7, 2021



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 4



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Richard “Dick” L. Palke, age 75, of Tarpon Springs passed away on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. Dick was born on December 3, 1946 in Omaha, NE to George and Violet Palke. He and his family later relocated to Minnesota where Dick played linebacker on the Richfield High School football team, winning the state championship in 1963. After high school, he attended the United States Military Academy where he played rugby and graduated in 1968. Upon return to civilian life, Dick pursued his MBA and engaged in a successful career in sales which took him all over the world. After his retirement, Dick chose to continue his education and obtained a Master of Arts from Trinity College of the Bible and Theological Seminary in December of 2017.

Dick is remembered by those who knew him as a tough and imposing figure who was always willing to help and mentor those who needed it; whether that involved mission trips to Africa and Central America, speaking at his Bible study group, assisting others with school and work projects, or just opening his home and a nice bottle of Scotch. As lover of history and world travel, one was never too far from a great and memorable conversation when speaking with him. Dick also loved to cook, and often showed his love for others through the preparation of amazing meals.

Dick is survived by his wife, Regina; his two sons, John and Mark; his brother, George; his stepson, Dominick; and his granddaughter, Grace. A celebration of Dick’s life will be held at a later, yet to be determined date and location in January of 2022. His ashes will be interred at West Point. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Dick’s preferred charity, One Community Now, Inc., at OneCommunityNow.com.



Tribute Wall

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MP

Mike Palmquist lit a candle in honor of Richard.

I remember playing football with Dick on the 1963 Richfield State Championship Football Team. Dick was a roving linebacker that we called the Monster Man. It was his job to stop the other teams best running back or take away their biggest threat. He did his job well. He was also a good friend and a great guy. I lost track of Dick a number of years ago but we reconnected at our football teams 45th Anniversary in October 2008. We became friends on Facebook in April 2011. Since then we kept in touch pretty much on a weekly basis. RIP my teammate and friend.



December 26 at 9:26 AM

JH

Jim Hicks posted:

Oh, I have so many stories about Dick! First of all, we shared the stage at the Grand Ol' Opry Ryman Auditorium! Also, Dick and I had lunch with Tommy Lasorda while Tommy was on his infamous diet. Dick and I ordered big steaks and baked potatoes, and so did Tommy after listening to us. Also, Dick and I were at a big meeting with IBM in Raleigh. As the meeting started, Dick got up and opened his wallet and pulled out a twenty dollar bill and passed it on to me. Eight IBM employees seemed puzzled about his timing. We told them we had a bet IBM would provide doughnuts for this meeting...no doughnuts and they tried for 2 hours to find doughnuts at the Research Triangle facility. That was a great win for us!!! One time we learned an IBM employee was going to try to access our secure building in Mexico. We warned the guards to pin him and cuff him to a tree!! They did, and we still had our contract with IBM. Some of you know that in our later years, my wife and I started a Seasonings business in Tucson, Arizona. Dick was a big contributor to our entire line of seasonings and provided some great recipes. If you wish, go to Orovalleygold.com and click on the Chef Palke tab!!

December 15 at 10:02 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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