



## Richard D. Oliva

May 25, 1939 - January 28, 2014

Richard Dean Oliva age 74 years 8 months and 3 days. May 25th 1939 - January 28 2014 (What does that dash mean?) For Richard (Dick) Oliva, it meant he was born to Joe M. Oliva and Libbie E. (Petracek) Oliva of Milligan NE. He was raised by his parents and his grandmother, Ida Petracek, and lived along with his brother, Bob, all in the same house. Dick loved messing around town with his brother and friends. He once put a lawn mower engine on a bicycle to the dismay of his mother. As a teenager he enjoyed playing baseball, even after suffering a surgically repaired broken nose from a tipped ball.

Dick graduated from Milligan Public School in 1956. He attended University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he received his B.A. in Business in 1960. In 1957, he met a girl (Peggy Shaner) from Geneva. They didn't hit it off right away. They did; however, grow on each other, and just celebrated 54 wonderful years of marriage in December 2013. After college, Dick enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1962, during which Dick and Peg were stationed in Mississippi and Pennsylvania. While in Pennsylvania, they brought into this world their first of two sons Richard (Rich) R. Oliva in 1964.

Shortly after that Dick, an Air Force Captain, decided not to re-enlist and moved back to Geneva to raise their family. Dick went into the family business, Oliva Construction, with his father, Joe. This made Dick at least the seventh generation owner/contractor of Oliva Construction that we know of. Dick, Joe, and his uncles built many quality homes and businesses in the surrounding towns from Tobias, Milligan, Geneva, Dorchester, Sutton, Hastings, Friend, and York, just to name a few. In May of 1967 they were blessed with the birth of their second son, Robert (RC) Curtis Oliva. Dick was a member of the United Methodist Church where he regularly attended and was active in many ways from a youth leader to the building committee for the current United Methodist Church. Dick achieved his private pilot license for single engine planes in 1976. He enjoyed flying a small private plane for several years.

Later in life, he became a Master Mason and was a Past Worshipful Master of Geneva Lodge #79. In 2007, Dick became a Shriner. Other than his passion for his work, he loved to play golf with his wife. More important than the score or the number of lost balls, was the camaraderie between friends. Most of all, Dick was a family man, as a husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. In those roles, is where he had great pride.

Dick was preceded in death by his father, Joe M. Oliva, mother, Libbie E. (Petracek) Oliva, a sister who died at birth, brother, Robert J. Oliva, father in-law, Rex I. Shaner, mother in-law, Nona Shaner, and son, Robert Curtis Oliva.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy (Shaner) Oliva, son and daughter in-law Richard & Charity Oliva of Fremont, grand children, Kayla M. Bennett of Grand Island, Mandy M. Goddard of Baltimore, Courtney & Wade DeVries of Omaha, Haley R. Larson, Harley C. Larson, and Haven S. Larson of Fremont, great grand children Caine Michael Bennett and Cooper Dean DeVries, sister-in-law Sylvia Oliva of Ogden, Utah, and by nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Dick were held on Friday, January 31, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Geneva. Pastor Ron Harris officiated the services. The recorded version of "How Great Thou Art" was the processional song and Wade DeVries also sang "I Can Only Imagine" and "Don't Cry For Me" during the service.

Pallbearers for the service included Joe Oliva, Gordon Sukstorf, Chuck Udell, Jr., Steve Ackland, Jack Jacobs, and Tom Bumgarner. Honorary bearers for the service included Chuck Grothe, Dick Nichols, Gorlyn Nun, and Roger Pittard. Interment was held in the Geneva Public Cemetery with Military Rites performed by Samuel J. Marsh Geneva VFW Post 7102. Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements. Memorials are directed to the United Methodist Church or to the family.

# Tribute Wall

DM

“ We just read about Richard's passing in the Fraternal Herald while visiting mom in Shawnee, OK. We have many good memories of our cousin and send our sympathies to the family. The Oliva family will deeply miss him.

Diana Oliva McCarthy - March 29, 2014 at 04:37 PM

BO

“ Peggy and Family, We just read about Richard in a Czech publication. Our family is so sorry that we did not know months ago. Our prayers and thoughts go to you and your family. Now all members of "Oliva Construction" are once again together. Love, Bruce, Diana, Jeanette, and Mother Gloria Oliva.

Bruce Oliva - March 26, 2014 at 09:23 AM

RB

“ Richard D. Oliva

Rick Buerer - February 25, 2014 at 09:40 PM

JK

“ Peg & Family, I was saddened to hear of Dick's passing; however, we know that he has passed on to eternal peace and you shall meet him again one day. May God wrap his arms around you and bring you peace, strength and comfort in the coming days. JoAnn Krause-Sutton

JoAnn Krause-Sutton - February 01, 2014 at 12:31 PM

RT

“ My heartfelt condolences to Richard's family - it seems so recently that we were high school classmates at Milligan High. Time has passed, new relationships have formed, families have grown - what a wonderful life Richard has had. Surely he has had God's many blessings; may he rest in peace.

Rogene Tesar - January 30, 2014 at 09:47 PM

GP

“ Peg our prayers are with you now and the coming months. Paul n Gregg

gregg parks-biba - January 29, 2014 at 09:06 PM

CB

“ I feel deep sorrow for your loss. I hope that your fond memories will lighten your days ahead. He is with Grandpa Joe, Grandma Libby, my dad, cousin Robert, my son Chris, Kyler, Kenna, and Isabella, amongst others in our family. May God give you and all of us strength. I will miss you Uncle Richard. With love, Carroll

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**Carroll Oliva Brown** - January 29, 2014 at 03:35 PM

JP

“ Though we didn't know Dick well, we know you Rich, and your family. Have been praying for Dick & Peg for quite sometime now. Our thoughts and continued prayers are with you as you prepare to say your final farewell to your Dad and to you Peg, as you do the same to the love of your life. We can take our comfort in knowing that Dick is no longer suffering and that he has taken the Lord's hand and followed Him to a much better place....a place called Heaven. Hopefully RC and those who passed before him were there to meet him as he crossed over to that new life. And a new life he has, you can be sure of that. Take care of each other and get your daily strength from the Lord.

*Our Love, Prayers & Sincere Sympathy, Joan & Richard Porter*

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**Joan & Richard Porter** - January 29, 2014 at 03:27 PM

DG

“ Peg, Court, Rich, (and families) We were so saddened to hear that Dick, had passed. We are here for you, what ever you need. With love and carig.Patsy&Dayle

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**dayle and patsy gewecke** - January 28, 2014 at 12:22 PM

EH

“ Peg, Linda and I are so sorry to hear about Richard's passing. Our prayers are with you and may God Bless.

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**Elmer & Linda Hessheimer** - January 28, 2014 at 11:51 AM