

Richard M, Ong, (87), died (August 30, 2023). Rosary at 9:30 a.m., (September 7), at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 815 E. Meyer Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri, closed casket, followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. Since this is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, he requests all to refrain from the superfluous, Satanic, sacrilegious grabbing of hands or group-groping that you may be encouraged to perform; he said "I hope I'm never caught dead in a church like that!" Interment to follow at Resurrection Cemetery in Lenexa, Kansas.

He attended St. Peter's Grade School on Meyer Boulevard in KC and gained an academic scholarship to and graduated from Rockhurst High and Rockhurst College; he achieved Senior Class Valedictorian Honors from each with the *magna cum laude* honor from the latter. He served proudly for eight years in the Army National Guard.

In the mid-1950s, he was a friend of the American artist Thomas Hart Benton, and his wife Rita and daughter Jessie. He was a model for Tom as the front Indian welcoming the European colonists to New England. This mural is supposed to be in the headquarters of the NY Water Commission, but he could never find a copy of it.

He pursued graduate study in political science at Georgetown University in DC, and then worked as the personal assistant to the founder of UNION NOW, a news magazine and an organization seeking to bring about a federal union of the NATO countries. He was proud to serve as Assistant District Scout Executive for the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America in Montgomery County, Maryland, where he led the entire Council in the establishment of new Scout Packs, Troops, and Explorer units, as well as in volunteer recruitment. He returned to the KC area where he worked at International Business Machines (IBM).

In 1965, he became an independent Insurance consultant and financial planner; he earned the Chartered Life Underwriter (CVLU) professional designation, became a Qualifying and Life member of the Million Dollar Roundtable (MDRT), and was recognized as the Man of the Year for several life insurance companies.

He retired in 1998 and has spent his time managing his Legacy to benefit charities in the Greater Kansas City area, the country, and worldwide (see below). Richard started each day with exercises and meditation; enjoyed working the newspaper's daily Sudoku, crossword puzzles and Cryptoquips as well as the Sudoku High Fives, and any other puzzle he encountered. He even taught Sudoku classes to members/students of a couple of his Legacies.

In the 1990s, his partner and he finished FIRST in the Johnson County Bridge Marathon.

He was a life member of Mensa: the top 2% IQs in the world; he was in the top 2% IQs of the top.

He is preceded in death by his parents Richard and Mary Ong, his dog Mia, and his cats Bootsie, Calico, Itchy, Smokey, and Socks; and by his fiancée Mary L. Preuss of Raymore.

Richard leaves three works in progress: his compilation, from books he read and history and educational channels on television, and lectures he attended and newspapers, especially the *Today in History* column, of a Universal Calendar covering events he considered important over trillions of years of history from the Big Bang about fourteen billion years ago to trillion of years from now when all Red Dwarf Stars die and the sky turns black signaling the end of the Universe. As of January 16, 2023, this comprises six books totaling 758 pages and 521,753 words. He also has a 1,187-volume library of VCR tapes and DVDs containing movies, interesting topics and people, places, comedy, and music. He was developing a CD collection of over 1,000 Popular, Classical, Country and Western, patriotic and religious music and instrumental and vocal Christmas songs he enjoyed.

His estate will be distributed to the following charities: Arts Engagement Foundation of KC; 20 East Gregory Boulevard; Kansas City, MO 6413; 816-0616. Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City; 816-462-0132; Hillcrest Transitional Housing Administrative Office; PO Box 901924; Kansas City, MO 64190; 816-994-6934. Make a Wish Foundation; 13523 Barrett Parkway Drive, Suite 241; Ballwin, MO 63021; 816-598-6018. Operation Breakthrough; 3039 Troost Ave; KC. Mo 64109; 756-3511. Pilgrim Center, Inc. 3807 Gillham Road; Kansas City, MO 64111; 753-6719. Rockhurst University; 1100 Rockhurst Road; Kansas City, MO 64110.

In lieu of flowers which he will neither see nor smell, and which will be refused, he requests that memorial contributions be made to any or all of the above-named institutions.

He was a warm and loving man and will be greatly missed.