Howard Richard "Dick" Alexander

Howard Richard Alexander, known to family, friends, colleagues, and countless customers as Dick, passed away peacefully at home on November 16, 2026, at the age of 90.

Dick was born on October 8, 1936, in Leavenworth, Kansas, to Howard Perry Alexander and Eerie Veet Alexander. He grew up in Platte City, Missouri, where he developed the work ethic, humor, and love of people that would define his life. Family favorites included stories of how he played quarterback on his high school football team and then marched in the band at halftime of those same games, along with the many adventures and memories from his youth.

After graduating from the University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, Dick became a Certified Public Accountant before earning his MBA from Harvard University. He also proudly served his country in the United States Navy for two years in Key West, Florida.

In 1965, Dick married the love of his life, Kathleen Mary "Kathie" Dankert Alexander. Their story began in the most ordinary of places, an elevator, and grew into an extraordinary partnership that spanned 61 years. Dick often said, "A day without Kathie is a day lost," a simple phrase that perfectly reflected the deep devotion he carried for her throughout their life together. After marrying the love of his life, Dick welcomed his four children, the other loves of his life: Dusty, Kira, Erika, and Adria. Together, Dick and Kathie built not only a marriage, but a family that became the great joy of his life, rooted in faith, love, generosity, and service to others.

In 1976, Dick founded Global Shop Solutions, an ERP software company headquartered in The Woodlands, Texas. While he was proud of the company's success and longevity, including celebrating its 50th anniversary, he was most proud of the people. He built a company where first jobs became lifelong careers, coworkers became trusted friends, and friendships became family. Even in retirement, Dick never truly retired. He remained actively involved in the business he loved and especially enjoyed visiting with customers, whose stories and successes genuinely mattered to him.

Dick had a remarkable gift for making people feel important. Whether speaking with a longtime friend, a new employee, a customer, or someone he had just met, he gave people his full attention and made them feel seen and valued. His family often remarked that his face lit up whenever someone walked into the room. It didn't matter who they were. He greeted people with genuine enthusiasm and warmth, making each person feel as though he had been hoping they would stop by.

His generosity and kindness extended far beyond his family and business. In his seventies, Dick founded the Montgomery County Homeless Coalition, a mission that became one of the great passions of his later years. Through his leadership and tireless advocacy, he provided hundreds of men, women, and families with shelter, dignity, and hope. He believed deeply in servant leadership and lived out his faith through action, always striving to care for others, especially those most in need.

Dick's political activism spanned his entire life and led to many memorable encounters with presidents and political leaders. He believed deeply that all people are created equal and spent his life advocating for causes and principles that reflected his commitment to human dignity, compassion, fairness, and opportunity for all.

An avid basketball fan, Dick loved cheering for the Houston Rockets. He could strike up a conversation with anyone and leave them smiling. Family and friends will forever remember his warm spirit, quick sense of humor, and familiar greeting: "How we doing, sports fans?"

Dick taught those around him that leadership begins with service, generosity should be second nature, and character matters. Whether in business, public service, or family life, he lived those values every day. His life demonstrated that success is measured not only by what we build, but by how we treat people along the way.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard Perry Alexander and Eerie Veet Alexander; his beloved daughter, Erika Ruth Klein; his son-in-law, Barry Klein; his sister, Ruth Alice Lindsay; and his brother-in-law, Dean Lindsay.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 61 years, Kathleen Mary "Kathie" Alexander; his son, Richard Dustin Alexander and wife Andrea Alexander; his daughter, Kira Kathleen Arend and husband Bill Arend; his daughter, Adria Alexander Keeney and husband Jayland Keeney; his brother, Dudley Perry Alexander and wife Virgie Alexander; his grandchildren, Jack Alexander and wife Madison Alexander, Ben Alexander, Maggie Alexander, Sam Alexander, Will Arend and wife Lainey Arend, Abby Arend, Claire Arend, Cooper Klein and wife Makayla Klein, Anna Klein, Tommy Klein, Hiyab Klein, Cole Caldwell, Carter Caldwell, Cameron Keeney, and Case Keeney; his great-grandchildren, Hudson Alexander and Quinn Alexander; his brother-in-law, Rick Dankert and wife Janelle Dankert; and many beloved extended family members including Alex and Trevor Wohlfahrt; Ryan and Wes Arvin and their children, Jordan, Darren, Walker, and Luke; and Kristen and Hank Card and their children, Will and Rachel.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on November 23, 2026, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

To know Dick was to experience kindness in action. Whether through a word of encouragement, an act of generosity, a warm laugh, or simply the way his face lit up when you walked into a room, he had a remarkable gift for making people feel valued. He leaves behind a family who adored him, a company built on putting people first, and a legacy of servant leadership, generosity, and love that will continue through the countless lives he touched.