

RICHARD & GRACE (POSPYCHALLA) WIRKUS

GRADUATED FROM EDGAR HIGH SCHOOL IN 1966 & 1967

Richard Wirkus and Grace Pospychalla were born and raised in Edgar, WI. After graduating from Edgar High School in 1966, Richard attended college and married Grace in 1968. He graduated from the UW Wisconsin - Stevens Point in 1970. Richard completed basic training with the Wisconsin National Guard, and the couple moved back to Edgar. He then began his career in the grocery business by taking over the grocery store which his dad had started after WWI. In 1976, Richard merged the business with the Kenneth Strong family and built Ken and Dick's United Food [now Edgar IGA] until 1990 when the business sold.

In the mid-1990s, Richard partnered with the Radue family to manage Marathon County Housing Association which consisted of 176 elderly and handicapped apartments in Marathon County. After the passing of his good friend, and transferring the business, Richard was asked to help another friend for a "few weeks". He spent the next 12 years at Northern Valley Industries, helping disabled individuals develop employment skills and work habits, which was his most rewarding experience.

Through the years, Richard has been involved in many organizations. He was a member of the Birch Trails Girl Scout Finance Committee, a member of the Board of Directors of The Bank of Edgar and Integrity First Bank, Wausau. He has been a member of St. John's Catholic Church Parish Council and Finance Committee. He is currently on the Edgar Area Education Foundation board and is treasurer for the Marathon Housing Association. He is also a 40+ year member of the Edgar Lions Club.

Two weeks after graduating from Edgar High School in 1967, Grace began her career at Production Credit Association in Stevens Point. Thirty-seven years after starting her career at PCA, going through several corporate changes, office moves and position adjustments, Grace retired to a more "normal" lifestyle.

Besides having her work career, she was busy being a mom to their two daughters, helping Richard in the grocery store, volunteering often at church and school, and supporting the whims and choices of her husband. After her retirement, "Grandma Grace" as she has become known, volunteers at St. John's Church and school. She has taught CCD for a number of years and has also served in many leadership positions for the St. John's PCCW group. The word "NO" is never on her lips, and "Thank You" is always on her tongue.

Their children are Barbara [Doug] Brehm [sons Simon and Everet] and Kelly [Tom] Bauman.

