



## Otto Schnellbacher II

November 4, 1951 - January 18, 2026

Otto Ole Schnellbacher II, age 74, of Topeka, Kansas, passed away on January 18, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Otto was born November 4, 1951, as an answered prayer to Otto Ole Schnellbacher and Theresa Renner Schnellbacher. He attended Most Pure Heart of Mary Elementary School and graduated from Hayden High School in 1970. Otto spent his summers with family at their cabin on Lake Geneva in Alexandria, Minnesota. The little red cabin would forever be his happy place.

Otto married Jeannie Swalwell in 1974 and they welcomed 2 children, Otto Schnellbacher III (Traye), and Nicole Schnellbacher McCoy.

A natural salesman, Otto worked alongside his father in the life insurance industry at Schnellbacher and Associates. In his later years, he began selling cars, combining his sales background and his love of automobiles.

As a car enthusiast, Otto spent many years as member of the Topeka Corvette Club, where he forged lifelong friendships. Otto had a knack for all things mechanical and restored several cars throughout his years, including a beloved 1957 Chevy.

Along with cars, Otto had a love for antiques and found purpose in restoring

items to their original glory. In his later years, he began collecting antique electric fans amassing an impressive assortment that led him to a new community of like-minded enthusiasts...his "fan friends." An annual highlight of his year was attending "Fan Fest" with his dear friends.

Otto was a loyal Jayhawk, and he spent many years cheering on his beloved team with family and friends.

As a father, Otto enjoyed sharing his hobbies with his children, and teaching them everything they ever wanted to know about fishing, cars, classic rock and antiques. A child at heart, Otto reached legendary Dad status by buying full-size arcade games when Showbiz Pizza closed, much to the delight of his children. He passed along his love of fishing to his son Traye, and gift of gab to his daughter Nicole. Otto found immense joy in becoming "Grandpa Otto" even dressing up as Obi-Wan Kenobi one Halloween with the kids. He was adored by his grandchildren.

Otto is survived by his children, Traye Schnellbacher and Nicole (Tully) McCoy; grandchildren Tully and Rory McCoy; his sister, Mary T. Decker; and numerous other loving relatives. Otto was preceded in death by his parents, Otto and Theresa Schnellbacher, his brother Brad Schnellbacher, and his brother-in-law, Nick Decker.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation to the University of Kansas Marching Band, and send in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home at 2801 Urish Road Topeka, KS 66614. If you would rather, please honor Otto's memory with a thoughtful act of kindness towards someone in need. Otto never knew a stranger, and any community Otto was part of, was made better because of his kind and genuine nature. He will be forever missed.

There is no service planned at this time.

Condolences may be sent online to [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com)

# Tribute Wall

SC

“ Otto used to come into my job almost every morning. Absolutely beautiful soul. Everyday I looked forward to conversation with Otto. You will be missed brother



sean carlsen - February 22 at 11:41 PM

BE

“ We were so lucky to have Otto as our neighbor. He was always a kind word and a smile for everyone. You'll be missed Otto and never forgotten.

Brent & Peggy Ellis - February 02 at 08:55 PM

ED

“ A friend, a neighbor and a very nice man. Otto maintained a quiet confidence that put people at ease. He was a great person to be around, and someone who was always willing to help others. Knowing him was a pleasure. It is a sad day to learn of his passing. I am thinking of him and wishing the best for his family.

Ed Degan - January 24 at 04:37 PM

DS

“ Otto's family, Mary T, we offer our sympathy to all of you. Always enjoyed being around Ott when Brad and I needed to hitch a ride or when visiting over at your home. Really miss Brad too, we had great times hanging out together. Whenever I have a fishing pole in my hand I feel his presence.

Dave Schmidlein - January 23 at 10:02 PM

RH

“ *Otto had many talents and was loved by his family and friends. He will be fondly remembered. May his family be consoled by our Lord at this difficult time.*

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**Ralph Huet** - January 23 at 11:20 AM

JS

“ *I knew Otto from grade school thru high school. Great young man. His dad was good friends with my dad and he was my 8th grade football coach at MPH. Great family all the way around .*

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**John Shortall** - January 22 at 11:19 AM

MD

“ *I first met Otto in grade school at Most Pure Heart. Always a Good Friend, Always a Good Man.....*

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**Matt Devlin** - January 22 at 02:46 AM