



## 2018 CONVENTION SPEAKERS



### Todd Van Beck

Todd W. Van Beck has been in funeral service and bereavement care, and church lay ministry for over 48 years.

Over the years Mr. Van Beck has been involved with a variety of funeral/embalming/educational and operational activities touching most every area of this vocation.

Mr. Van Beck holds an honorary doctorate degree from the Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service, a Masters degree in Religion from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, a Bachelors of Arts degree from Mount Mercy University, and a professional diploma in Funeral Service Arts and Sciences from the New England Institute, Boston.

Mr. Van Beck also has served and continues to serve as the Dean of the College of Funeral Home Management at the ICCFA University and is the Director of Continuing Education Studies at the John A. Gupton College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Most recently Mr. Van Beck was honored by the Educational Foundation of the ICCFA with the first "Landmark Career" Award. He was also honored by the Fountain National Academy by being given the Distinguished Service Award for longtime work in the art and science of embalming.

Mr. Van Beck is an accomplished author and speaker on a wide variety of topics. He has published over 600 professional articles and published over 65 training manuals and books.



### Mitch Holthus

Mitch Holthus is the voice of the Kansas City Chiefs and is the longest tenured and most decorated play-by-play "voice" in franchise history.

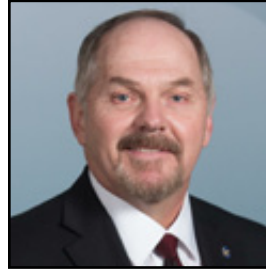
Holthus is also the host of the Hy-Vee Chiefs Insider Television Show and the Chiefs rewind television post game show. In addition, he originates the

"Minute With Mitch" radio and television series which is seen and heard in five states. His work is also featured on Chiefs.Com.

Following the NFL season, Holthus is a television play-by-play announcer for college basketball. His work has been featured on the ESPN family of networks, Fox Sports and other national outlets. He primarily covers the Big 12 Conference and the Missouri Valley Conference and is a past recipient of the John Sanders "Spirit of the Valley" Award.

Holthus is also a member of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the Kansas State University Athletics Hall of Fame

Holthus has also won an Emmy for his video and on-line work by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. In addition, Holthus is a past recipient of the Kansas City Sports Journalist Of The Year. He has served on the Board of Directors of the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association and is a Past President of the Organization. Holthus has two degrees from Kansas State University, one in Journalism and another in Business Administration.



### Rick Rork

Rick Rork has been a licensed funeral director and embalmer since 1985. He is a 1983 graduate of the Funeral Service Program at Vincennes University in Vincennes, Indiana. Mr. Rork has worked in funeral homes in both Indiana and Illinois, and has served as both a deputy coroner and elected coroner in Union County, Indiana, and currently holds an Illinois embalmer's and funeral director's license.

Since 1996 Mr. Rork has been employed with the Pierce Chemical/Royal Bond Company, where he works as a sales representative serving the states of Missouri, and Illinois. Mr. Rork also serves Pierce Chemicals as a member of their speaker's bureau, and has served as guest lecturer for many local, state, national, and international funeral service organizations.

Most notably Mr. Rork served as the keynote speaker for REMANSO, the National Association of Funeral Homes and Cemeteries of Colombia, South America, at their national convention. In addition to being the first American to speak on the topic of funeral service in Colombia, he was also the first American to demonstrate embalming in that country.



### Kristina Dietrick

Kristina has over 25 years of experience in Human Resources, and prior to acquiring HR Partners, she held several executive-level Human Resources positions in the agricultural, behavioral health and health care industries. At HR Partners, Kristina provides Human Resources support and solutions to a

variety of businesses, professions and organizations throughout the Midwest and is often invited to address large corporate conventions on Human Resources issues throughout the United States. Kristina received her Bachelor of Arts from Washburn University and holds the Professional in Human Resources (PHR) designation. Kristina also holds the Society for Human Resource Management Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) designation.



### Brianne Niedermyer

Brianne Niedermyer joined Homesteaders Life Company in 2010, bringing a strong background in the funeral profession. She grew up in her family funeral home and continues to help them as she can. She is a Senior Account Executive for Homesteaders and works with 11 different states,

including firms in Kentucky. Brianne holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from Iowa State University.