



Darrell Jerome Olson

November 22, 1950 - February 15, 2025

Darrell Jerome Olson (age 74) passed peacefully into the arms of the Lord on Saturday February 15, 2025, with his wife Paula holding his hand.

He was born on November 22, 1950, to Arthur and Celia Olson in Starbuck MN. Darrell had one brother (Glenmore) and one sister (Betty). He moved with his family at a young age to Parkers Prairie MN and lived there until he graduated from Parkers Prairie High School in 1968.

He played basketball, baseball and ran track in high school. He was named All Conference and WCCO Player of the Week during his high school basketball career. He also appeared on stage in the school's theatre presentations and was a member of the National Thespan Society. He attended Fergus Falls Community College and Moorhead State College.

He met his wife Paula in 1972 at her father's restaurant and they married on August 25, 1973. They were married for 51 years and have three sons, Erik, Ryan and Neal. They lived in Fridley, Circle Pines, and Moundsview before settling in Maple Grove for 31 years to raise their sons.

Darrell loved basketball and coached all three sons. He was also an avid fisherman and hunter. He went to Sitka, Alaska several times to fish salmon and halibut.

In 2021, he took all three sons with him to Alaska in what they all said was the best fishing trip ever making wonderful and lasting memories!

Darrell and Paula loved to travel and can boast they have visited 27 countries in their travels. Darrell's favorite cities were Prague and Budapest. He and Paula experienced the world and made new friends as they traveled.

Darrell started his career at the Onan Corporation in Fridley and eventually moved into a retail management career starting with positions at Donaldsons, Carson's, Target and eventually led him to Select Comfort (now Sleep Number). After almost 20 years at Sleep Number, he retired as Vice-President of Distribution and Logistics. He joined the company when it was in the middle of a struggling time and was part of the team that led it to be the success it became in the bedding industry. After his official retirement from Sleep Number, he created DO Consulting Company and worked as a logistics consultant for five years.

Darrell is preceded in death by his parents Arthur and Celia Olson and brother, Glenmore.

He will be forever missed and loved by wife Paula, children Erik (Molly), Ryan (Emily), and Neal (partner Sabine), and grandchildren, Nora, Henry, James, Tommy and Ole, sister, Betty Goyette and many other friends and relatives, including his British Lab/Hunting Partner, Millie

A visitation will be held from 4-6pm Thursday March 6th at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel, 5000 W. 50th and Hwy 100, Edina.

A memorial service will be held at 11am Friday March 7th with visitation beginning at 10am at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 7401 City Rd 101, Maple Grove, MN. Interment Lord of Life Memorial Peace Garden.

In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to Feed My Starving Children,
Pheasants Forever, or the United Way.

www.washburn-mcreavy.com

Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Cemetery Details

Lord of Life Lutheran Church Columbarium

Maple Grove, MN 55311

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Darrell Jerome Olson.



March 04, 2025 at 11:56 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Darrell Jerome Olson.

March 04, 2025 at 11:56 AM



“ *My Grandpa Darrell was an essential part of my life growing up. Being the first grandchild, I fondly remember learning how to "drive" the boat at a very young age, fishing off the dock at the Lake Miltona cabin, and going on boat rides with him. There's no one else I rather have as captain of my boat. He taught me a lot about taking pride in your work, whether it's maintaining the landscaping, gently handling fish after you catch them, zooming around on a four-wheeler, or supporting the family. We both enjoyed spending time outdoors, and I remember my excitement when I could hold Voodoo's (black lab) leash while walking at the Miltona cabin. Waking up sunburnt and smelling faintly like lake to the smell of him cooking his famous initial pancakes (blueberry was my favorite) are some of my favorite memories with him. He always made me feel special, even going so far to let me ride with him in his car in the Parkers Prarie parade one year (I still have my "Catch Your Dreams" fishing pin from 2011 proudly displayed on my bulletin board). I'll miss you a lot, Grandpa D. ~ Nora Olson*

Nora - February 28, 2025 at 11:49 AM

PO

Those are beautiful memories Nora. Thank you for sharing them. Love you! Grandma Paula

Paula Olson - March 02, 2025 at 01:21 PM

JO

“*Darrell Is my Grandpa, Some of my favorite memories of my Grandpa are when he Taught me how to drive the training boat at the cabin and when he got the big table at the cabin. My favorite big Mable moment was when he made such bug waves that he broke the cable on the tube and the next day we had to go to the boat shop to get a new one. Another of my favorites is when he first let me drive the four-wheeler through the woods it was a little scary but I got used to it. it was always super fun when Grandpa would take us through the woods he would always go in the puddles on purpose so the water would splash up and it was super fun. I will forever miss the times when we would shoot at the cabin and talk about high school basketball and the times when we could talk about my team and how I was playing. I will be playing every game for you Grandpa and will work my hardest to be the best player I can be for you. Love James*

James Olson - February 26, 2025 at 12:14 PM

PO

Thanks for sharing those fun memories James! Grandpa would certainly love to know you are playing in his memory. Love you! Grandma Paula

Paula Olson - March 02, 2025 at 01:24 PM

JN

“ I met Darrell through his son Neal, when Neal and my son became buddies in Maple Grove High School. We lived less than a mile apart at that time. We did not know each other well, and I'd say we were acquaintances. I recall having conversations about cars. Darrell had a C4 Corvette, and I had a C3, so we had that in common. Later he replaced the Corvette with a Mustang. My first car was a Mustang so another thing to talk about. Also, Darrell helped me get a job interview at Sleep Number a few years before he retired.

My wife and I would occasionally bump into Darrell and Paula at school events, and in more recent years at church, where we would catch each other up on our son's activities and our own goings on. We send our sincere condolences to Paula, Neal, and the rest of the family.

Jon & Sue Nelson

Jon Nelson - February 24, 2025 at 10:06 AM

PA

“ Some of my earliest memories of Darrell are of the outdoors - scouting, hunting and fishing. I remember him insisting my first boat must have tiller-steering (steering handle on the engine vs a steering wheel and throttle). I chuckle about it now. I remember Darrell helping my father later in his life, and I'm grateful for that. More recently, I remember talking with him about stocks and investments, and also fast cars and his appreciation for Mustangs. We also spoke about our appreciation of Led Zeppelin. I recently saw *Becoming Led Zeppelin* and thought of him during the film.

Uncle Darrell, thank you for the love, the laughter, and the countless memories. You were large than life, always ready with advice, support, or a booming laugh.. Your presence made the world a better place, and your absence leaves an unfillable space. We miss you dearly.

Patrick, Celi and family

Patrick - February 23, 2025 at 05:04 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Darrell Jerome Olson.



February 21, 2025 at 05:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Darrell Jerome Olson.

February 21, 2025 at 05:42 PM

CJ

“ We met Darrell and Paula in the fall of 2019 when they purchased the lake home next to us on Lake Roosevelt. The next Spring when we came to open our cabin, Darrell had temporarily put his boat in our driveway. When we arrived we didn't know whose it was until he came running out to let us know. It was funny and a great start to the summer!! Since then we have been friends and enjoyed many dinners, happy hours, story telling and boat rides with Lawrence Welk playing!! Darrell was a very special person. He was a cross between my dad with his sarcastic humor and my wife's dad in looks and fishing skills. We are truly honored to have met Darrell and had a better quality of life with him around. Usually going up north to open the cabin is full of excitement for the summer, nice weather and playful banter with Darrell. This year he will be remembered fondly and missed dearly. It definitely won't be the same there without him. Love and peace to Paula and family.

Chris & Nicole Johnson - February 20, 2025 at 08:14 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Darrell Jerome Olson.



February 20, 2025 at 07:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Darrell Jerome Olson.

February 20, 2025 at 07:29 PM

BG

“Darrell started out as my "baby brother" and then progressed to being my "little brother". As the years passed we became "best friends". As I sit here today, I'm thinking of all the wonderful conversations we had to solve the world problems, climb the corporate ladders, brag about the kids and grandchildren, disagree and sometimes even agree on our very opinionated outlook on life and all that involved, but mostly how best to enjoy life and make the most of every day. I enjoyed every call, miss them every day and remember them every day. They were fun, educational, and thought provoking, but mostly they cemented our respect and love for one another. One could never have asked for a better "baby brother", "little brother" or "BEST FRIEND"!

Love, Betty

Betty Goyette - February 20, 2025 at 02:40 PM

CO

“Darrell is my Uncle, some of my memories stem from an early age. I remember going to Thanksgiving at their Mounds View home, playing football in the backyard. Then later at the Maple Grove home playing basketball in the driveway. I remember always thinking that I wish I had Darrell's height. I also remember arm wrestling him at his kitchen table when I was 17 yrs old. I beat him, so I got the bragging rights (but really, I think he just let me win). Darrell was always happy guy and had a quit wit. I always wanted to be in the room and listen to Darrell and my dad talk about fishing, boats and sports. Darrell and Paula let me stay at their home for a week. I was starting an athletic training job in the cities, and it started the week before we could move into our new apartment. I hope that he and my dad are back together, discussing the finer places to fish and that the weather is always nice with a slight walleye chop. RIP Darrell
Colin

Colin Olson - February 19, 2025 at 08:58 AM