



Dennis Lee Olsen

June 13, 1940 - December 1, 2020

Olsen, Dennis Lee, Age 80 of Blaine, MN, Thunder Lake, MN, and Tonto Verde, AZ passed away on December 1, losing the greatest fight of his life to COVID-19.

Survived by loving wife, Darlene Higgins Olsen, and children Denise Leighton (Tim) and Jaime Olsen (Kristine). Darlene's sons Cristopher Wraspir (Jennifer) and Nickolas Wraspir (Ashley). Grandchildren Elizabeth Sullivan (David), Ted Leighton, Tom Leighton, Sam Olsen, Olivia Olsen, Kate Olsen, and Ellie Olsen. "Bonus Grandsons" Cole and Connor Sutherland and Great Grandson Jack Sullivan. Sister Diane Daniels and Uncle Retired Lt. Colonel Ronald J. Olsen (Maria). Key Employee of 42 years, Staci Tate Hine. Additionally survived by ASI employees whom he mentored, supported, and appreciated. And the "Grand Gang" of Edison Class of '58 and their spouses, his hunting and fishing buddies over the years, his biker buddies, and the Wednesday evening cribbage gang (Dennis was a wiz at cribbage. And Darlene once dealt him a 29 hand.) Dennis will be remembered by the many clients, business owners, and suppliers who enjoyed professional and personal friendships with him, along with Blaine neighbors, Thunder Lake neighbors, and many friends from coast to coast – Arizona, Florida, Nebraska, and New York. Dennis couldn't wait to get out of town and enjoy the scenery and tranquility at Thunder Lake every summer. And then as soon as the temperature started to fall, he was anxious to get down to AZ. His overloaded

SUV was shipped to Tonto Verde and awaited his arrival along with the Bentleys who could never pass a gas station without stopping. The carry-on bags remain packed for the flight down. He loved the warm winters there.

Dennis was born in Minneapolis to Louis E. Olsen and Virginia N. Olsen. He grew up in “Northeast” Minneapolis, graduated from Edison High School (class of '58) and then Dunwoody Technical School. He wasn't afraid to take risks. In 1976 Dennis independently started his business, ASI, Inc. with very little money. After years of hard work, dedication and sacrifice ASI evolved into a major upper Midwest cutting tool distributor. He believed in everyone who worked for him; he never forgot who was by his side, making the company grow. Dennis would greet every employee, every morning. Sometimes he'd crack a joke, sometimes he'd offer words of encouragement. His memory for story-telling and jokes was amazing. He could fix anything. He even invented a better mouse trap. He often remarked that his head of grey hair was his greatest asset and also joked that the toughest six years of his life were those he spent in the fifth grade. The Edison High School faculty would be amazed at the success he had attained. And he loved to talk politics being a strong and proud Republican.

Dennis was a loving, caring, and appreciative husband always putting “Dar” first. He was the prince in her life. He was happiest when they could be together 24/7. Along with a good Brandy Manhattan. They worked together through the trials and tribulations of building the house on the lake that he loved so much, aptly named the Lodge Mahal.

He developed special relationships with Darlene's sons, daughters-in-law, and bonus grandsons. In his later years Dennis enjoyed assembling jigsaw puzzles, having them framed, and then installing them in his puzzle museum (the garage in Tonto Verde.)

Dennis had loads of friends and left an imprint on everyone he met. He will be greatly missed.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, private family services will be streamed on Saturday, December 12 at 11:00 a.m. at <https://webcasts.lifetributes.com/1105421>.

Memorials can be made to Dennis' charities of choice: Operation Smile, The Shriners' Crippled Children's Hospital, Saint Jude Hospital for Children and the Wounded Warriors.

A celebration of Dennis' life will be held in the summer of 2021 after the vaccine rollout. It is tentatively set for his birthday on Sunday, June 13, in Minnesota. Specifics to follow in the spring. Get vaccinated!!

www.Washburn-McReavy.com

Northeast Chapel 612-781-6828

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Webcast in memory of Dennis Lee Olsen



Washburn-McReavy - December 08, 2020 at 08:59 PM

SU

“ Sincerely, Your friends at Walter USA purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dennis Lee Olsen.



Sincerely, Your friends at Walter USA - December 11, 2020 at 05:05 PM

MA

“ Mike and Dionne Oldenburg, Rio Verde, AZ purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dennis Lee Olsen.



Mike and Dionne Oldenburg, Rio Verde, AZ - December 11, 2020 at 12:54 PM

SC

“ Sandvik Coromant purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dennis Lee Olsen.



Sandvik Coromant - December 10, 2020 at 08:48 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Dennis Lee Olsen.



December 09, 2020 at 11:37 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dennis Lee Olsen.



December 09, 2020 at 08:31 AM

TI

“ TEAM Industries purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Dennis Lee Olsen.



TEAM Industries - December 08, 2020 at 04:25 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Dennis Lee Olsen.*



December 07, 2020 at 06:39 PM



“ *Burt, Travis and the rest of your friends at OSG purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dennis Lee Olsen.*



Burt, Travis and the rest of your friends at OSG - December 07, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ *Dennis will be missed by Rich and Jo as they look back on all the good times they shared. Rich remembers the first time he met Dennis in Las Vegas at the Four Queens. Never were we at a loss for conversation and laughs from make sure the burger is rare (not served as a hockey puck), the Manhattan must be full to the top and “so on”. Rest in peace and watch over us here in AZ.*

With deepest sympathy and love, Rich and Jo Rader

Richard Rader - December 05, 2020 at 12:29 PM

DT

“ So Nancy and I are visiting Darlene and Dennis at their home in Az. Dennis says "want to take a ride in my Bentley sports car". I thought why not.... Bad choice.... We turn onto the two lane road by Denny's house, he stops the car in the middle of the road, looks at me and says, "are you ready". Ready for what I said. "Got your seat belt on" he says. Ok I think to myself, he's going to show me this "thing" can really go. But it can't go too fast with all most 600 pounds of D&D in the car I think to myself.....Wrong!!!.....In what seemed to be a second we were going 130mph. As Dennis slowed down, turnaround and headed back to his house he said to me, "you may want to check you pants when we get home". A mans man. Fun to be around. Someone who really enjoyed being with people (even me).....sometimes....He is a character who will be deeply missed but always remembered.....Nancy and Doug Tanner

douglas tanner - December 05, 2020 at 10:03 AM

KA

“ The best memory I will carry with me forever is that Dennis always said, " I am happy when the love of my life is happy ". He so enjoyed telling us how much he loved Darlene.

*Dennis will be so missed, by so many--
Lovingly, Ron & Karla Ackerman*

Karla Ackerman - December 04, 2020 at 11:04 PM