



## Donald Leroy Olson

August 24, 1938 - January 17, 2024

Olson, Donald "Don", age 85, passed away peacefully at his home on January 17, 2024

after a long battle with COPD. In the days preceding his passing, he was surrounded

by family and friends who gathered around his bedside and showered him with love. He

was proud being a dad to 4 girls, was a wonderful grandpa to 9 grandchildren and he

adored his wife Kaye and knew what a gem she was.

Don was a man of strong work ethic, resolute faith, grit, kindness and wit. He enjoyed

figuring out how things work; the man could fix anything! He was a small business

owner, animal lover, Sunday school teacher, legendary softball coach, avid fisherman

and hunter, storyteller, classic car enthusiast, fierce game player, talented water skier

and beekeeper. In his last few years as life slowed down he enjoyed throwing balls for

his dog, growing pears and lady slippers, walks in his electric scooter, watching birds,

sudoku, reading the paper, Bible study, orange juice, honey and back scratches.

Born to Melford and Edith Olson on August 24, 1938 in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, he

was the youngest of three and told many stories of the mischief he and his brothers

Eugene and Roger got into when they were boys. Don served as a surveyor in the

National Guard and worked for the telephone company before joining his father's

business Mel-O Honey, where he worked for most of his adult life. His brother Roger

joined him after their father passed away and together they ran the best honey empire

Minnesota has ever seen. Wife Kaye and Don enjoyed trips to Spain and England,

cruising through Alaska, a European river cruise and wintering in Arizona.

Don's

greatest joys in life were his family, honey, boating, fishing in Canada, coaching softball

and the many dogs he had through the years (Doc, Sparky, Penny, Pumpkin, Rusty and

Teddy).

Don is preceded in death by his parents Melford and Edith Olson and brother Eugene

Olson. Don is survived by his brother Roger; loving and steadfast wife Kaye; children,

Corinne (Denny) Daily, Tammy (Jamie) Thingelstad, Angie (Max) Lundeen and Michelle

(Hector) Fernandez; 9 grandchildren (Mazie, Nora, Tyler, Levi, Elsa, Lucas, Stella, Axel, Ezra) and his dog Teddy.

Visitation will be held on February 8, 2024 from 4-7 pm at Washburn-McReavy Glen Haven Chapel in Crystal (5125 West Broadway, Crystal, MN) with a time to share memories at 6pm. Memorial service will take place on Friday, February 9 at 11am at the Grace Church Chapel (9301 Eden Prairie Road, Eden Prairie, MN). Lunch reception to follow. Memorial donations to Village School of the Bible, Grace Church and University of MN Bee Research Lab.

# Cemetery Details

## Glen Haven Memorial Gardens

5125 West Broadway  
Crystal, MN 55429

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel  
5125 West Broadway  
Crystal, MN 55429

## Memorial Service

FEB 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Grace Church (Eden Prairie)  
9301 Eden Prairie Road  
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

# Tribute Wall

CP

“ *Wonderful person. I still keep many memories with him during my year at USA. I was really lucky to have a host dad as him. Best wishes to my American family from Spain. Cari.* ”



**Cari Plaza** - January 31, 2024 at 06:45 AM

PE

“ *Hola, nos hemos enterado ahora del fallecimiento de Don. Os acompañamos en el sentimiento y recordamos los buenos momentos pasados con vosotros. Cary y Paco* ”

**peik** - January 30, 2024 at 12:17 PM

BD

“ *Bruce and Barb Dosedall purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donald Leroy Olson.* ”



**Bruce and Barb Dosedall** - January 29, 2024 at 01:50 PM

BM

“ *I enjoyed coaching against Don and working with him on the Board of the Golden Valley Girls Softball Association. He was a gentleman and an excellent coach. May your memories of him always bring a smile to your face.* ”  
*Bob Mayeron*

**Bob Mayeron** - January 22, 2024 at 11:40 AM

DJ

“ *I am so glad you were a part of the Johnson's lifes. You were a wonderful man, landlord and friend and I will miss you. - Kaye - our prayers are with you and your family.*  
*Diane and Heather Johnson*

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**Diane Johnson** - January 22, 2024 at 11:31 AM