



## Kenneth Norland Olson

May 27, 1935 - October 1, 2025

Kenneth N. Olson, age 90, of Bloomington, MN, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family. He was born on May 27, 1935, to Roy and Luella Olson in Milan, MN. Ken is survived by his wife Irene of 60 plus years and sons Erik (Lisa) Olson, Brian (Pam) Olson, daughter Lorilee (Thomas) Yarbrough, six cherished grandchildren Courtney, Brittany, Zachary, Kaylee, Brady and Abby, brother David (Carolyn) Olson, Godchildren Jill Beck and Mitchell Benson and many nieces and nephews.

Ken is preceded in death by his parents, brother John and Godchild Craig Olson.

Ken grew up on a farm in Milan, MN. He enjoyed attending high school where he played the saxophone in the band, sang in the choir and was a member of a barbershop quartet. He also enjoyed playing on the baseball and basketball teams. He was the Valedictorian of his class in 1953. After graduation he attended Gustavus College and the University of Minnesota.

Ken was proud and honored to serve his country in the United States Army. Ken was in the Army Reserve from 1954-1960 then active duty from 1961-1962. He was Honorably discharged in 1962 with the rank of SFC (E-7).

Ken worked his entire career for Donaldson Company. He felt blessed to work

with so many wonderful colleagues. He started in the Engineering lab and worked his way up to be a Vice President in the International Division. In 1970-1976, Ken moved to Hong Kong with his family to establish a new headquarters for Donaldson in the Far East. While there, he developed many close relationships, especially with colleagues in the Japan and Australian offices.

After retiring in 1997, he pursued his many hobbies and interests. His greatest pleasure was simply reading books. He was an avid fisherman, who enjoyed many fishing adventures with friends and family. He loved to play golf, feed the birds and collect David Winter cottages. His favorite pieces being the large castles.

Ken also loved to watch sports. Over the years he enjoyed his season tickets with the Gophers, Vikings and especially the Timberwolves.

Ken was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend. He especially enjoyed time at the cabin and being surrounded by family. He loved watching the grandkids play and teaching them how to fish. There were also many fun days of playing Yahtzee and doing crossword puzzles.

Funeral services will begin at 11:00am at Hillcrest Methodist Church, Bloomington, MN on Saturday, October 25, 2025. Visitation will begin at 10:00am with lunch following the service. Burial will be held at Washburn-McReavy Dawn Valley Memorial Park.

Memorials may be directed to Hillcrest Church or to an organization of your choice.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hillcrest United Methodist Church  
9100 Russell Avenue South  
Bloomington, MN 55431

## Memorial Service

OCT **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Hillcrest United Methodist Church  
9100 Russell Avenue South  
Bloomington, MN 55431

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ I had the pleasure of reporting to Ken for a couple years in the mid 90’s. He mentored me on the Donaldson Asia businesses, in particular Nippon Donaldson. I will always be grateful for his support and guidance. With great respect, Doug Hagen

Doug Hagen - October 25, 2025 at 08:39 AM



“ Rainbow Reflections Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth Norland Olson.



October 23, 2025 at 11:32 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth Norland Olson.



October 23, 2025 at 08:50 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Kenneth Norland Olson.



October 20, 2025 at 10:14 AM

TF

“ *The Kuramoto Family purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Kenneth Norland Olson.*



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**The Kuramoto Family** - October 19, 2025 at 11:50 PM

CL

“ *CK Lau purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kenneth Norland Olson.*



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**CK Lau** - October 16, 2025 at 08:11 PM

CL

“ *Ken was the first MD in Donaldson Far East Ltd. (Hong Kong), and it wouldn't have been so successful without Ken's leadership and the strong foundation he set. My heartfelt condolences to his family, his strength and kindness will always be remembered.*  
*C.K. Lau*

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**CK Lau** - October 16, 2025 at 08:03 PM

DN

“ When I first started my career at DCI, I was a personnel assistant. We were looking to hire a Lab Tech. Ken had scheduled an interview with me for the job. I interviewed Ken, felt he was a great person to hire. So I told my boss at that time who was the Personnel Manager (Bob Findorff) to hire Ken. And that's how his career began at DCI. Thought the years I became good friends with Ken, traveled to the Far East with him and had many fishing trips with him and the "guys". I will miss his phone calls, just to chat. Bless you, Irene and may Ken's soul rest in peace with his Lord.  
Dick Negri

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**dick negri** - October 16, 2025 at 12:40 PM

TL

“ Ken was the “founder” of Donaldson Korea in May, 1997. Without his strong involvement and support, Donaldson Korea would not be existed.  
May the Lord embrace your loved one with eternal peace, and may His grace bring comfort to your heart.

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**Terry Lee** - October 15, 2025 at 06:32 PM

TV

“ Terry Lee & Veronica purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kenneth Norland Olson.



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**Terry Lee & Veronica** - October 15, 2025 at 06:24 PM

CA

“ Cori Anderson purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Kenneth Norland Olson.



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**Cori Anderson** - October 15, 2025 at 04:25 PM

SW

“ Shoko Watanabe planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth Norland Olson.

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**Shoko Watanabe** - October 15, 2025 at 07:23 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Kenneth Norland Olson.



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October 15, 2025 at 07:23 AM

KM

“ My name is Ken Morgam and I worked for Donaldson for 34 years in Australia. I met Ken in 1975 when he was stationed in HK. As well as working together for 22 years I considered Ken a good friend. We both loved fishing and even after his retirement we keep in contact, telling fishing stories and photos of the ones that didn't get away. He was the calmest person I know and considerate of everyone.  
To Irene and all the extended family, I am thinking of you and will miss my email chats with Ken.

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**ken Morgam** - October 15, 2025 at 05:27 AM