



## Oscar Vinyeard Heath

October 11, 1931 - August 29, 2025

Oscar Heath, age 93, of Edina, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on August 29, 2025.

Oscar was born on October 11, 1931, in Island, Kentucky, to William and Rena Heath. He grew up with the values of hard work, humility, and deep respect for others - principles that guided his life.

He proudly served his country in the United States Navy, both on active duty during the Korean War and later in the Naval Reserve. His service reflected his deep sense of duty, discipline, and commitment to others - qualities that carried into every part of his life.

After returning home, Oscar pursued higher education and graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He went on to build a distinguished career as a sailmaker, dedicating 36 years to the craft. His workmanship and pride in his trade left a lasting mark, and he was admired for his skill, perseverance, and integrity.

Oscar was previously married to Judy Heath, who passed away in January 2025. For the past 42 years, he shared his life with his partner, Judy Langford. Together they built a loving and enduring partnership filled with joy, companionship, and support.

He was a proud father to his daughter Rochelle Telander (Alan) and son Chandler Heath (Karen), and a beloved grandfather to Abby Smith (Austin), Aaron Telander (Ashley), Ryan Heath (Abbie), Evan Heath, and Arden Sawyer (Ben). He also delighted in his great-grandchildren: Ryder and Ivy Smith, and

Ella and Lee Telander.

Oscar enjoyed sailing, writing, and storytelling, as well as volunteering and supporting his community. He was especially known for his generosity, humor, and ability to bring people together.

Oscar will be remembered most for his kindness, sense of humor, and unwavering love for his family. He leaves behind a legacy of strength, compassion, and faith that will continue to inspire all who knew him.

He is survived by his partner, Judy Langford; his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and his half-brother, Randall Heath of Newburgh, Indiana. He was preceded in death by his wife, Judy Heath, and his parents, William and Rena.

Oscar will be laid to rest with military honors at Fort Snelling National Cemetery on Monday, October 20, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. A celebration of his life will follow at 11:30am at The Waters of Edina, 6300 Colonial Way, Edina, MN 55347.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the Veterans Resource and Empowerment Center, Minneapolis, in Oscar's memory.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

OCT **20**. 10:30 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

Fort Snelling National Cemetery  
7601 34th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

# Tribute Wall

AD

“ More than forty years ago, I first met Oscar Heath when he made a suit of sails for a Scandinavian training ship called the "Christian Radich".

As a reporter for KSTP TV, I arranged to meet with Oscar at his sail loft for an interview and we immediately hit it off.

One day, a very excited Oscar called me to say he had an opportunity to make new sails for the USS Constitution in Boston Harbour. KSTP arranged to fly him out to look over "Old Iron Sides" and to produce a story about the Minnesota sail maker who had a shot at giving the historic ship new clothes.

Alas, it wasn't to be, but by now Oscar and I had become firm friends.

Over the years we stayed in touch. Many times Oscar and Judy were regular guests in our home, firstly in White Bear Lake and then at our house in Hudson, Wisconsin. Our 4 children considered both he and Judy family. He will be dearly missed by the whole Davis clan.

Unfortunately we are unable to attend his service but please know, Judy, Shelly and Chad, that we are thinking of you all and sending our love and best wishes at this very tough time.

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**Amanda Davis** - October 14, 2025 at 05:45 PM

LN

“ Oscar Heath. A man of integrity. Respected and liked by all. During our years of sailing he was beneficial in teaching many people how to sail and especially tying knots. He even taught us how to tie a knot behind our back. He often gave his sailing loft to the sailing club for meetings, etc. I remember the time when we were sailing at the Apostle Islands he loaded up his sail boat with everyone that would fit and we had a beautiful night sailing under the stars. (trying not to get caught by Superior Charters) Everyone loved Oscar. We will miss you Oscar  
Fair Winds  
Lois Nystrom

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**Lois Nystrom** - October 13, 2025 at 08:47 PM

WI

“ World Wide Technology, Inc. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Oscar Vinyeard Heath.

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**World Wide Technology, Inc.** - October 06, 2025 at 02:40 PM

WI

“ World Wide Technology, Inc. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Oscar Vinyeard Heath.



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**World Wide Technology, Inc.** - October 06, 2025 at 02:40 PM

SC

“ I'm from New Orleans LA. My husband and I met Oscar and Judy over 25 yrs ago through both of our sons. We bonded immediately. Out of urgency from hurricane Katrina we relocated to MN and lived there for 3 yrs. They were such a supportive force in our lives. We continued our friendship after rebuilding our home. They visited us in New Orleans several times and we reciprocated in kind. They visited us one Mardi Gras and stated it was an experience of a lifetime. We shared many wonderful times together throughout the yrs. They were present at our 50th wedding anniversary which we celebrated in Maple Wood MN in 2016. The following yr my husband passed. I revisited our children in 2018 and 2022 and spent amazing times with Oscar and Judy. This last time in May 2025 while attending one of my granddaughter's graduation from high school I revisited the two of them again with my youngest son, Aaron. We took Judy with us to visit Oscar at his nursing facility. He was very happy and excited to see us. I'm elated to have had this visit with both of them not knowing this was going to be my last with Oscar. Farewell my friend. I love you. In my Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you for I go to prepare a place for you. Condolences to the family. Shirley B Chatters

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**Shirley B Chatters** - October 01, 2025 at 03:24 PM

GC

“ Oscar was a true spirit I can not began to thank he and Judy for how they welcomed my mom and dad when they came up from New Orleans during Katrina they formed an everlasting relationship  
Rest in peace captain  
G

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**George Chatters** - September 26, 2025 at 02:44 PM

DZ

“ Oscar was a man of many talents. I met Oscar back in 1984 when He, Lois Nystrom and Caryl Lee began forming a sailing club for single sailors, both skippers, some with boats, others wanting to learn. After several friends began joining - it formed under the name of Windward SSS's. What began with 3, mushroomed into over 100 members at one time. We chartered at Lake M'tonka, Lake City, then up to Bayfield, often using a members credit card for the deposit, hoping to get 6 members to fill/pay for the charter. A Board of Directors was formed and the club continued until 1994 when several members spun off, forming Northern Lights Sailing Club - offering membership to married families and is still in existence with world wide opportunities to sail. Oscar offered his nautical experiences,- teaching points of sail - knot tying, many stories as well as bringing in guest speakers to our meetings. As for sail making - I'd like to mention that Oscar had International recognition when he was awarded the contract for making the complete 'suit' of sails for the Norwegian Tall Ship - the Christian Radich! He not only made the complete set - but flew with them to Norway, and had the opportunity to 'test' sail on the Christian Radich as well. Oscar used his scrap spinnaker material to make Ditty bags which were given to each crew on our charters. Many are still in use. This club has ended but several friendships are still carrying on - thanks to Oscar - and his love of sailing that he passed along to so many of us. RIP Skipper - Fair Winds ana Following Seas

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Dorothy Zimmermann - September 25, 2025 at 01:21 PM

JC

“ I had known Oscar for a few decades through sailing friends, sailing organizations, memories of group activities through sailing, parties at his "loft", which was his place of business. We partied amongst his sewing machines and his sail-making supplies and equipment. We brought in food and sleeping bags. We had skits and show and tell moments. I remember spending a couple New Years Eves there. Oscar's "significant other", Judy Langford is also a good friend. Oscar regularly attended Meetinghouse Church, where I am also a member, and he has lived right there at Waters of Edina for a few years. My condolences to Oscar's family.

Sincerely,  
Jackie Carlson

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**Jackie Carlson** - September 24, 2025 at 08:20 PM