



Richard Daniel Olson

May 17, 1955 - January 6, 2025

Richard "Rich" Olson, 69, of Forest Lake died peacefully at his home in Minneapolis on Monday, January 6th, 2025. He is survived by loving wife of 45 years Laurie, wonderful sister Judy Peterson (Norman), mother-in-law Ceil Kelley. Many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. Rich was preceded in death by his parents, Millard and Katherine (nee Tolzmann) Olson and his father-in-law William Kelley.

A true athlete, Rich played many sports including basketball. He was head lifeguard at the Forest Lake Beach in the 1970's. Doling out the cash for his nephew's hat tricks, a sports admirer of all types from pee-wee hockey to the big leagues, he loved the art of any game with competition.

Rich felt one of the greatest blessings was being adopted by his Mom and Dad. They were kind and patient and tried to keep him in line and honest. His Dad made him sweep the grocery store parking lot for a month, after stealing some cough drops.

A turned city boy, Rich has cherished childhood memories of helping at at Uncle Norm and Aunt Bee's farm and Uncle Walter and Aunt Elsie family farm. A master at cuisine, Rich showed his love for his friends and family by cooking and grilling and hosting of many Thanksgivings and Halloween parties.

He started at Northeast Residence in 1990 and nobody can remember when he actually retired, even him. His respect for the residents that lived there shined through his daily service to each and every one of them.

Rich struggled with alcoholism. He and Laurie found that love and intelligence alone can not beat this disease. He called Laurie's cousin Danny, who said "You need to believe in a higher power. God can get you through." He revisited his faith and called his cousin Terry Tolzmann who answered at all hours of night and day. He showed his unwavering support by sharing bible verses and a shared prayer for many months. Cousins, Brian and Jennifer welcomed him at church services and assisted with any accommodations. The support of any cousins was extra meaningful as they showed their love with phone calls and cards of encouragement did not go unnoticed. The power of cousin's love got him through tough times.

In September of 2023 he went on hospice, after 6 months they graduated him out. He told everyone he was expelled. 15 Months of God's grace he had a wonderful care team. He thanked god every morning when he woke up for the blessing of another day. He will be greatly missed.

Memorial Saturday, January 18, 2025 at Lakewood Cemetery Chapel
visitation at 9am and funeral & burial at 10am. In lieu of flowers family would prefer donations to a charity of their own choosing.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 18. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Lakewood Memorial Chapel
3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Memorial Service

JAN 18. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

Lakewood Memorial Chapel
3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Tribute Wall

GK

“Gina K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Daniel Olson.

Gina K. - March 07, 2025 at 01:59 PM

KT

“ I have many fond memories of Rich...beginning when Uncle Millard & Aunt Katherine brought “little Ritchie” over to meet us in 1955. He was full of energy from the get go, giving his Mom & Dad a crash lesson in caring for such a boisterous child! Rich was always full of energy for as long as I can remember. Whether it was in getting a job done or getting into something forbidden 🤪

My fondest memory of Rich was his ability to clown around...if he took a hard fall, he'd get right up laughing his head off...he was a tough kid, but with a kind heart...

When I was first introduced to Laurie back in the early 80's...I thought to myself...he's a lucky man to land that girl...and I believe I was right on that, as they got married, and shared many years together.

Together, Rich & Laurie shared many acts of kindness...One that stands out in my mind, was the kindness shown to his Uncle Norm & Aunt Bee (my Mom & Dad)...whether stopping by to visit, or a well stocked Christmas fruit basket...

I know I'll see Rich again someday, but until then I will miss seeing him at our family get-togethers...but all the fond memories I have are a joy. I'm so very blessed to have been a part of Rich's family...

Rest in Peace my dear friend...Thanks for the Memories 🙏

Ken Tolzmann (cousin)

Ken Tolzmann - January 17, 2025 at 09:28 PM

DT

“ Daniel T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Daniel Olson.

Daniel T. - January 17, 2025 at 09:36 AM

CB

“ I am saddened by the loss of Rich in our lives..but am grateful for all the memories & lives he touched.He was a special friend to our family & we enjoyed times spent with him & Laurie. I will miss his sense of humor and endless stories that consisted of a “thread” of truth.. but “Embellished” as the way Rich would do.. to make an interesting story. Rich was the greatest “story teller “... Thanks for the memories & special friendship... love you Cherie (Jacks’ wife)

Cherie Bender - January 16, 2025 at 06:14 PM

JB

“ I knew Rich all through my upbringing in Forest Lake. We were a year apart in school and became friends for life at 16 yrs old. I, being a farm boy & Rich being a city kid = believe me, when I say he taught me a lot about “life” in the big city of Forest Lake. There were many Chapters in our lives that cemented our true friendship together. The 1st being how we were both Adopted (along with his sister Judy) and being Blessed to have the love and upbringing our parents gave us. We know it wasn’t easy for them with all the “Shenanigans” that both middle school and high school tempted us with & believe me.. we tried them all. But, we persevered and it only strengthened our friendship. Millard & Katherine were very big hearted as they also opened their home to a fellow student during their sophomore year(Joe) who later on became Rich’s’ closest friend & supporter besides his wife Laurie. Millards’ role was to keep Rich honest & to implement a strong work ethic, while Katherine taught him how to be a great money manager. Both of these life lessons played out as Rich excelled at both! From his role as a care giver in the group home for challenged adults unto his loyal duty of caring for his parents during their final months...Rich had a heart of gold and gave his best. In my personal life, I was able to enjoy many frequent trips to Vegas & Florida with Rich, with too many stories to tell..but trust me..they were memorable and one of a kind! My own family will always remember his infamous Halloween parties... where both Rich & Laurie would “spoil” our children (& many others) with games, prizes & lots of candy! He enjoyed all the laughter & squeals from the kiddos as they tried to hit the “Famous Piñata “ which was stuffed with candy, toys & money! Rich had many famous “lines” & they were all original, but one that stands out to me was: “God” gave me a beautiful body..but I’ve abused it badly... with that said.. over the years, especially within the last 18 months; we talked a lot about life, experiences, relationships and most importantly his renewed Faith in God. He became very close to the readings in the Bible..and was excited to reveal his interpretation of various scriptures. His message to all was that he was finally at peace with Jesus and was welcoming a new chapter in his life- a life in heaven. He was so grateful to Laurie: his best

friend & wife as she was the steady Angel at his side, along with Joe who never wavered his support and friendship. Rich, I keep you close in my heart and I know that God willing, I will see you in the next Chapter of our lives..as we continue our journey...love you my friend, Jack

Jack Bender - January 16, 2025 at 01:05 PM

ST

“ *Sophie, Taylor, and Amy T. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard Daniel Olson.*



Sophie, Taylor, and Amy T. - January 15, 2025 at 06:36 AM

ST

“ *Sophie, Taylor, and Amy T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Daniel Olson.*

Sophie, Taylor, and Amy T. - January 15, 2025 at 06:36 AM

VP

“ *I became friends with Laurie in college when we were advancing our nursing degrees. I remember Rich cooking many wonderful things for all of our potlucks. Laurie and I remained friends all of these years and by default, Rich also became my friend. I always enjoyed our visits! He was an incredibly smart, kind and generous man. Rich, may you rest in peace in Jesus' arms in Gods kingdom of heaven. Hugs, peace and comfort to you, my sweet friend Laurie.*

Vicki Parsons - January 13, 2025 at 04:04 PM



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

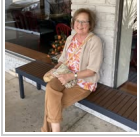
January 10, 2025 at 12:45 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Richard Daniel Olson.



January 10, 2025 at 12:45 PM



“ I feel blessed to have been able to talk with Rich a couple times in the last month or so. I have so many fond memories of him, especially growing up- when I spent just about as much time at the Olson's, as my own home. Auntie Katherine & Uncle Millard were my Godparents- Judy & Rich, my first-cousins. Our families were close and spent Sundays and Holidays together. Rich was just a year older than me and a year-ahead in school. And, since Judy & I were only 5 months apart in age, and nearly inseparable; Rich & I also had a special relationship. I've been thinking a lot about that recently, and realized just how unique it was. Rich was a big, strong boy, but we teased each other like a couple silly school-girls. Although he could bully the other boys at times, to me, he was more of a protector. Once when we went camping north of Itasca in the summer, Richard rescued me when I floated out too far in "our swimming hole" and panicked. I always felt that it was the precursor to his career as a Lifeguard. Rich showed his bravery as a young teenager, standing up to my Dad in defense of me, and although it proved to be futile- I will never forget his gallant efforts. As we got older, graduated from school and went our separate ways, we still kept in touch through family and family events. No matter what happened in the intervening years, Rich remained the same to me- we still had that connection and teasing-quality in our communications. There was an underlying knowledge of unconditional love...we were family - the kind of family that is true and compassionate...an undying love.

Becky Hatcher - January 09, 2025 at 08:37 PM



“ I Love You Rich & Laurie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Daniel Olson.

I Love You Rich & Laurie - January 09, 2025 at 06:38 PM

IL

“ I Love You Rich & Laurie purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard Daniel Olson.



I Love You Rich & Laurie - January 09, 2025 at 06:38 PM

RE

“ So glad I got to visit Rich at Faith Lutheran a couple of times in the last two years! So sad to hear this news 😞

Renee - January 09, 2025 at 02:58 PM

KT

“ Many many memories of rich and then rich and Laurie. Godfather of Samantha. Good friend to all. Soo smart and kind. The world has lost a good man.he always surprised us with his many talents.

Kim Tschida - January 08, 2025 at 03:24 PM

JT

“ When I first met Rich he was just a little kid, always in motion and always in some kind of mischief. Years later when I saw him care for his dad I realized what a kind and caring person he had become. The last time I saw him I was amazed at how his faith had grown and how he shared that faith with others. He was a blessing to many and he will be missed.

Jeanne Tolzmann - January 08, 2025 at 11:45 AM

VP

I became friends with Laurie in college when we were advancing our nursing degrees. I remember Rich cooking many wonderful things for all of our potlucks. Laurie and I remained friends all of these years and by default, Rich also became my friend. I always enjoyed our visits! He was an incredibly smart, kind and generous man. Rich, may you rest in peace in Jesus' arms in Gods kingdom of heaven. Hugs, peace and comfort to you, my sweet friend Laurie.

Vicki Parsons - January 08, 2025 at 06:17 PM

PO

Richie and I grew up together as close cousins. Many days and times of fun. Laurie, what a wonderful husband and friend - how you'll miss and we'll miss him, Love Paulie

Paul Olson - January 09, 2025 at 04:51 PM



Rich and I shared many classes together all through school as we are the same age, and being first cousins in the close knit Tolzmann family, there were frequent family gatherings. In the winter months, that almost always included Uncle Millard taking us all up to the junior high to blow off steam shooting baskets or generally running wild in the gymnasium!

Rich was naturally aggressive when we were young, and he and I often ended up in tussles. I don't recall the exact details of one incident, but I do remember it was a dreary day and it had been raining when Aunt Katherine and Richard came over to North Shore Drive for a visit. (I don't have any recollection of Judy being along!) Rich and I were outside. The next thing I know, he shoved me into the ditch in front of our house that was filled with muddy water! I emerged from the ditch soaking wet and I punched him in the nose!

Rich was the first to get back in the house where my mom, Mercedes, and Aunt Katherine were shocked by Rich's bloody appearance and tearful exclamation "Tracy punched me in the nose!" There seemed to be an unspoken understanding between our moms when I came in, soaked with filthy water, saying "Richard pushed me in the ditch!" That may have been the last time Rich messed with me, a usually easygoing kid.

We had many wonderful times together over the years, through school and family, and he and Judy were so compassionate working with Uncle Millard and Aunt Katherine as they aged. The family and his many friends will certainly miss him. God Bless.

Tracy M Tolzmann - January 09, 2025 at 06:58 PM

MV

Rich was one of my first friends when my family moved to Forest Lake in late 1972. And he was the only one to help us move into our new home. He was also the only one strong enough to get our refrigerator up the stairs. He was a great friend as long as you could tolerate his sense of humor. Thankfully I had that tolerance.

Our high school days together were legendary and risqué. I wish I saw him more often after high school. One time in Ft. Lauderdale we played hoops on my basketball court. Rich was the white Charles Barkeley. He would just back into the hoop and score. He was dominant one on one. And I think that he was that way off of the court.

As far as I am concerned Rich will never be gone. I will always think about him and smile. I am so fortunate that our paths crossed. And if you meet him in the hereafter, don't challenge him to a game of one on one.

Rich had about 100 nicknames for me. I guess that I will sign off as Vandersnatch.

Mark Vanderbosch - January 09, 2025 at 07:42 PM



...Richard and nicknames, it was an art-form...His favorite for me - "Becky J Reuben K". (Becky Tolzmann Hatcher)

Becky Hatcher - January 09, 2025 at 11:49 PM

R-

To the family of Rich Olson,

I first met Rich in the seventh grade. We were teammates and good friends. I have many good memories of Rich that I will cherish forever.

He touched many with his kindness and friendship. Rich helped me in my times of need; this I will never forget. His parents and family treated me as one their own. Someone so special can never be forgotten.

I wish you and all others who are saddened today, healing, peace and comfort through their memories of Rich.

God rest my wonderful childhood friend and reward him for his lifetime service to God.

In caring sympathy,

Randy R Swenson

Randy R Swenson - - January 19, 2025 at 10:10 AM