



Roy Gunnar Olson

February 9, 2016

Olson, Roy Gunnar, age 84, of Brooklyn Park MN. Preceded in death by parents Gunnar and Hilma Olson and grandson Kyle Olson. Survived by loving wife, Nan; sons Randy Olson (Julie), Brad Olson (Jeannie); daughter Pam Olson; brother Roger Olson; 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Roy was born in Minneapolis, MN in 1931. Upon graduating from Washburn High School, he enlisted in the Marine Corp and was stationed at Camp Pendleton CA. Within a few weeks he was joined by his bride-to-be, Nanette Hansen. Thus began a 65-year love affair that raged until the day he died on February 9. In 1955, Roy graduated from MacPhail College of Music. He taught band in the Robbinsdale School District for 32 years and in the mid-60s led the Robbinsdale City Band. He was a lifelong member of the American Federation of Musicians, played in musical groups of all stripes and genres including the band featured in a weekly television show called Polka Jamboree.

In addition to his natural gift for music, his most endearing quality was his sense of fun. It's appropriate that he left us on Mardi Gras' Fat Tuesday, because he loved a party, a taste of beer and the company of good friends. He had a huge heart and lived life on his own terms. During his last few weeks, Roy faced death unafraid, without regrets and surrounded by those who loved him. Everyone lucky enough to know this fine man will profoundly

miss him. A memorial service will be held at Washburn McReavy, Robbinsdale Chapel, 4239 W. Broadway, on Tuesday, February 16 at 11:00 am. Visitation for family and friends begins 1 hour prior to the service. Memorials may be given to the family.

Tribute Wall

LC

“ Roy Olsen was my Band Director at Plymouth Junior High in the late 1960's--He was a Delightful Gentleman, and so Inspiring. I play the Flute, and he had me solo with band when I was in 9th Grade... Years later, in 1982, I invited He and Nan to my Wedding, and they attended. I just know that he is 'Making Beautiful Music' and Brightening up Heaven 🙏❤️🙏

Linda Christianson - December 03, 2025 at 11:37 AM

JM

“ JoAnn, Dennis, Kathy, Diane, Matt, Michelle purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Roy Gunnar Olson.



JoAnn, Dennis, Kathy, Diane, Matt, Michelle - February 15, 2016 at 11:25 PM

TN

“ Ted and Donna, Melodie & Tom, Greg & Diane, Lori & Nick purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Roy Gunnar Olson.



Ted and Donna, Melodie & Tom, Greg & Diane, Lori & Nick - February 15, 2016 at 10:13 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roy Gunnar Olson.*



February 14, 2016 at 06:04 PM



“ *Roy was my band teacher over 50 years ago. He helped me appreciate the joy in music. What a dedicated and very funny teacher. He made band practice fun and stimulating at the same time. As my friendship with the entire Olson family developed I was proud to be able to move from addressing him as "Mr Olson" to finally Roy. God bless you Roy!!!!*

Steve Dahlin - February 14, 2016 at 04:54 PM



“ *Roy was my best buddy since we were young boys, we had a lot of fun playing music together and so many memories. You will be missed buddy. Ted*

ted ostergren - February 14, 2016 at 10:54 AM

MK

“ My sincere sympathy goes out to your family -- Roy was truly a wonderful man. When I think of him, I think of my childhood when our families would spend weekends together at our cabin on the island at Prior Lake. I think about how Roy would play his trumpet when your family got to the landing so we would hear him (before cell phones, of course) and we would take the boat over and pick everyone up. And how we would sit around the campfire at night and tell scary stories and jokes -- he always made us laugh. And the music -- there was always music. Just seeing him and my dad playing their horns together was truly a wonderful experience. What a gift Roy was himself. I am truly blessed for having known him and your family. He will be missed. All my love to you -- Melodie Kotarski

Melodie Kotarski - February 14, 2016 at 09:11 AM



“ 8 files added to the album New Album Name



Marta Lindsey - February 13, 2016 at 05:12 PM



“ 6 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Marta Lindsey - February 12, 2016 at 06:24 PM

DM

“ *Roy, I am blessed for you were a truly wonderful person that brought joy to everyone who had the good fortune to know you. You shared with me your smile, your laugh and your stories. You and Nan had something so very rare and precious and you will live on thru wonderful memories and a love that will never end. I know you are playing your music now for God.*

Dalaine

Dalaine Milliman - February 12, 2016 at 12:21 PM