



## Thomas Garfield Olson

October 4, 1940 - November 3, 2025

Thomas Garfield Olson, 85, was a beloved husband, father and grandpa Garfield. He died on November 3, 2025 after a brave battle with dementia. Tom was born in Minneapolis and graduated in 1958 from Roosevelt H.S. Tom attended the University of Minnesota for two years, leaving to become a Navy pilot and served aboard the USS Oriskany and USS saratoga. After he was honorably discharged from the Navy, Tom completed his education at the U of M, then enjoyed a thirty-three-year career as an airline pilot for Northwest Airlines.

Tom married the love of his life, Betty Ziehlsdorff in 1966, They had two children and three grandchildren, Thomas (Andrea) Olson, Juan; Susan (Keith) Berger, Max and Ava.

Preceded in death his parents, Wallace and Mildred Olson, and his sister Judy Nelson.

Tom loved his church, his loving family, spending time at the family cabin, fishing on Balsam Lake, towing the kids on water skis and tubes, and enjoying time with friends.

Memorials to VEAP food shelves 9600 Aldrich Avenue Bloomington, Minnesota or Mount Olivet Lutheran Church.

Celebration of Life will be at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church , located a 5025 Knox Avenue south Mpls on Thursday, November 20th at Noon . Visitation 1 hour prior to service at church.

[www.Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com)

Werness Brothers 952-884-8145

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **20**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (So. Mpls)  
5025 Knox Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55419

## Memorial Service

NOV **20**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (So. Mpls)  
5025 Knox Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55419

# Tribute Wall

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“ Tom (and Betty too) were the best neighbors and were so amazing with our little Chloë! Like an extra set of grandparents across the street! Tom would watch as Chloë learned to run, scooter and bike in front of their house. Waving and clapping at each milestone. We so enjoyed hearing his stories and seeing his pride as he shared his stories of flight and the family grocery store with us. We will never forget.

Sending love to his family and a special hug to Betty. 💕 with love,  
Kara, Steve, and Chloë

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**Kara Van Kleek** - November 21, 2025 at 08:39 AM