



Julian Olson

June 3, 1944 - May 14, 2025

Julian passed away peacefully after fighting pancreatic cancer for a year and a half.

Julian has impacted many lives during his 80 years. He taught Industrial Technology at Central and West High School for 32 years. He loved woodworking and construction and taught all the areas except auto mechanics. The joy and satisfaction he received from getting students to enjoy learning and working with their hands was evident throughout his teaching career.

Julian retired at age 55 and spent many years being a handyman for others half the day and playing golf the rest of the day. Golf was his passion and if he wasn't playing well his favorite saying was "it's a good day for a walk as I enjoy the beauty that surrounds me".

Julian was very intentional about helping others. He was always willing to help neighbors, friends, and community members through Habitat for Humanity, or serving community meals, and projects taken on at Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church. Julian and Trudy went on various Mission Work Trips sponsored by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program. Julian's knowledge of how to do something was appreciated by all who knew him. He was definitely a life-long-learner.

When Julian needed to grab just one or two items from the grocery store, it was never a quick errand. He'd walk in with a specific list, then inevitably spot someone he knew—maybe an old student, a fellow church member, or just someone who looked like they might enjoy a conversation. Before you knew it, he'd be deep in discussion, swapping stories, offering advice, or listening intently to whatever that person wanted to share. An hour would fly by, and he'd return home with those original one or two items, plus a wealth of new insights and connections. For Julian, every interaction was an opportunity to learn, to connect, and to spread a little bit of kindness.

Julian is survived by Trudy, his wife of 56 years, daughter Nikki (Troy) Cooley of Liberty, MO, and son Wade (Kristen) of Parker, CO. His grandchildren, Tepary and Omri Cooley and Kai and Macy Olson were a very important part of his life and he made a point of teaching them how to make things in Papa's Shop.

Julian and Trudy were very fortunate to have traveled many places with their family and Julian was proud to say he had visited 49 states. Camping and hiking in the mountains was a favorite activity and even though Julian disliked sleeping on the ground, he did it anyway. The yearly vacation with his family to Table Rock Lake was also a highlight.

Please do not send flowers or plants instead show kindness to others on a daily basis. Memorial donations may be made to Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls, Habitat for Humanity in the Cedar Valley, or Cedar Valley Hospice. These are important organizations to Julian and Trudy. Julian has donated his body to the University of Iowa Deeded Body Program to further the education of others.

The memorial service will be at Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian

Church in Cedar Falls at 1:00 on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, with a reception following the service. The Memorial Service will be streamed at <https://cedarheightspres.org/>

The family thanks you for being an important part of their lives.

Previous Events

Family Directed Memorial Service

MAY 27. 1:00 PM (CT)

Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church
2015 Rainbow Drive
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 268-0153
<http://cedarheightspres.org>

Tribute Wall



“ A grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Julian Olson.

May 27, 2025 at 11:30 AM



“ He was an awesome teacher. I remember learning in his class that the ground prong on a cord is longer so that's the first thing that touches. I'm sorry to hear about his passing.

Theodore TePaske - May 26, 2025 at 07:50 PM



“ Fujiwara's family purchased the *Fairest of All* for the family of Julian Olson.



Fujiwara's family - May 20, 2025 at 12:16 PM



“ Fujiwara's family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Julian Olson.

Fujiwara's family - May 20, 2025 at 12:16 PM

TN

“ Just a great guy Julian outstanding in his field on the golf course or biking. Always a kind word with his vast amount of knowledge and encouragement to others. Good times spent with Trudy and Julian on mission trips as well.



tom northey - May 19, 2025 at 01:05 PM

MF

“ Masaaki Fujiwara purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Julian Olson.



Masaaki Fujiwara - May 18, 2025 at 11:39 AM

MF

“ Masaaki Fujiwara planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Julian Olson.

Masaaki Fujiwara - May 18, 2025 at 11:39 AM