



Robert Ray "Bob" Olson

August 10, 1927 - January 1, 2023

Robert Ray "Bob" Olson, 95, of Cedar Falls, peacefully passed away on Sunday, January 1, 2023, at Western Home Communities-The Deery Suites.

He was born in Moline, IL, on August 10, 1927, the son of Carl and Virginia (Zollars) Olson. He graduated from Central High School in Detroit, MI, then received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, and an MBA at the University of Northern Iowa in 1984. He worked as an engineer at John Deere for 32 years. Bob was a Navy veteran and an active member of the Northeast Iowa Woodcarvers. He was also involved in the Boy Scouts with his sons and was a Scout Master in the local Boy Scout Troop.

On November 26, 1953, he was united in marriage to Rhoda Hanger in Dubuque, IA. Together they enjoyed traveling and supporting their children while they participated in high school and college sports. He and Rhoda were members of St. Timothy's United Methodist Church for over 50 years and now the Fresh Wind Ministries of the Western Home.

Bob was a lifelong learner. He was a self-taught wood carver and became highly skilled in the style of intarsia (a form of wood inlaying). In addition, he taught himself to make stained glass projects. He enjoyed creating these items and then giving them away to others. He would never take payment for

any of his work, but rather would say, "Make a donation to your favorite charity." He was a giver and enjoyed sharing his talents with others, not for his benefit, but for the benefit of others.

Bob is survived by his wife; son, Peter (Cindy) Olson of Cedar Falls and their children, Justin (Karley) Olson and Courtney (Tim) Menke; daughter, Jeanne Olson of Waterloo and her daughter, Kimberly (Matthew) Morgan; daughter, Elizabeth "Betty" Olson of Boise, ID; son, Todd (Sheila) Olson of Farmington, MN and their children, Brittany and Connor Olson; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Carl Olson.

Memorial services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, February 18, 2023, at Western Home Communities-Diamond Event Center in Cedar Falls with visitation one hour prior to the service. Inurnment at Fairview Cemetery in Cedar Falls.

In lieu of flowers, Bob's memorial preferences are to the Mary Taylor Scholarship Fund through the Western Home Foundation, Cedar Valley Hospice, and the Salvation Army.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

12th and Division Streets
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 273-8628

Previous Events

Gathering of Family and Friends

FEB 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Western Home Communities-Diamond Event Center
5307 Caraway Lane
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Memorial Service

FEB 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

Western Home Communities-Diamond Event Center
5307 Caraway Lane
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Tribute Wall



“ Richardson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert Ray "Bob" Olson



Richardson Funeral Service - February 22, 2023 at 10:28 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert Ray "Bob" Olson.



February 17, 2023 at 11:49 AM



“ Rhoda and Jeanne - I am thinking of you and holding you close in prayer.

Adel Maria Kessler - February 15, 2023 at 08:05 PM



“ Rhoda, Betty, and family, We fined several times with Bob and Rhoda. What delightful people! Wish I could have seen some of Bob's intarsia work but I didn't know he did it. Both seemed so much younger than their years. Thinking of you! Our condolences.

Lucille Walter - January 12, 2023 at 01:07 PM

SC

“ Bob knew your dad much better then I did bit we always enjoyed seeing him and visiting he was a great man and will be missed by all.

My prayers are with you Pete and your family
Sandy Cavin

Sandy Cavin - January 10, 2023 at 05:00 PM

SH

“ Rhoda and family: I will miss knowing there will be no more glass visits. I always enjoyed Bob as a customer and friend.

Shari Harberts - January 05, 2023 at 08:43 AM

JM

“ Prayers for you and your family as you face the days and months ahead. So sorry to know of your grievous loss.



joan Meany - January 03, 2023 at 07:55 PM