



## Wayne E. Olson

May 2, 1941 - March 4, 2020

Wayne E. Olson, 78  
Kearney resident

Wayne E. Olson, 78 of Kearney passed away Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at the Kearney First United Methodist Church with Rev. Alan Davis officiating. Interment will follow at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Monday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home and one hour prior to the service at the church.

Wayne Eugene Olson was born May 2, 1941 in Minden, Nebraska to Oren and Leona (Stierly) Olson. He attended Kearney High School, graduating with the class of 1958. Wayne briefly attended Kearney State College. In 1959 Wayne moved to Denver, Colorado. He worked various jobs including unloading railcars of bagged pinto beans by hand and paid by the carload. He later worked for the Martin Marietta Company on the eastern Colorado Missile Silo projects. In the winter of 1961-62 he had the opportunity to return to Kearney to take over the Conoco Service Station at the Corner of 25th and 1st as an independent owner operator for Continental Oil Company. In 1968 Wayne had the opportunity with Continental Oil to take over the Jobber ship delivering the bulk fuel and oil products to local municipalities, service stations, Industrial and manufacturers. In 1974 he was given the chance to

purchase the jobber ship and own and operate as the owner and operator. This was the beginning of Olson Oil Company Inc. that Wayne operated for more than 30 years.

Wayne was very involved in the Kearney community. He was a longtime member of the Kearney B.P.O.E., Kearney Eagles Club and the State Firefighter Museum Board. Wayne served with the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department from 1963 to 1978, retiring as Captain. During his service Wayne fought the fire at the First United Methodist Church located at 22nd and Ave A. After the fire he was on the committee that purchased the site from the church for the new Fire Station 1. In 1998 he became active on the Reserve Company for the Fire Department and continued that service until his death. He also served as Civil Service Commissioner for 40 years. Serving both the Fire Department and the Kearney Police Department. In addition, he also served on the board of the American Red Cross, Platte Valley State Bank Circle C Board Member, State Brand Chairman for Conoco, National Board Conoco Advisory Council for Jobbers and the Paul Harris Fellow Rotary International. Wayne was awarded the 2014 Humanitarian Award. In his free time, Wayne enjoyed fishing, and restoring KVFD Fire equipment and collectables.

In 2008 Wayne noticed a tremendous amount of food being thrown away from grocery stores that were nearing expiration dates. After speaking with many local food suppliers and with cooperation of the First United Methodist Church, the food pantry idea became reality. With help from the Management of East Lawn Mobile home estates, they were able to eventually purchase and renovate a mobile home into the Pantry. Food is brought in several days a week, and the pantry is open to all those in need. Providing food for as many as 200 families a week.

In his spare time Wayne loved to hunt and fish. He enjoyed going to the river

to hunt for Morel mushrooms and willow that he would turn in to walking sticks and crosses for his loved ones. He enjoyed going to his grandkids sporting events and church with them each week. He never complained about being a taxi when needed. Wayne loved his family and friends with his whole heart.

Left to cherish his memory are his children, Christine Olson of Kearney, Gregory (Shannon) Olson of Ragan, NE, Troy Olson of Provo, UT, Tiffani (David) Olson of Kearney and Shane (Becky) Olson of Des Moines, IA. Grandchildren, Jarod, Bridger, Chamonix, Ethan (Sara) JJ (Colby), Sarah (Tony), Hope (Reece), Grace, Macy, Dawson, Camdyn. Great grandchildren, Jarod, Ariana (Aaron), Talyn, Taytem, Hudson, Kara, Logan and Ella Mae; and 3 great great grandchildren. Brother, Don Olson of Dubois, WY; as well as numerous extended family members and friends. Wayne was preceded in death by his parents.

In Lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Kearney First UMC Food Pantry or the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com). Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 233-3244

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 9. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations  
4115 Ave N  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 234-3500  
info@osrfh.com  
<https://www.osrfh.com>

## Funeral Service

MAR 10. 10:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
4500 Linden Drive  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wayne E. Olson*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Wayne was always so nice to me while Christy and I had so much fun as teenagers growing up and hanging out at the house. A lot of great memories, laughs and good times..that I will always cherish in my heart.*

**Angela (Thompson) Salestrom** - March 11, 2020 at 12:17 AM



“ *I am deeply sorry for your loss. Wayne was a deeply caring man that would do anything he could to help anyone. I hope you all can find peace, comfort, and healing in the many cherished memories you have of him. He will be greatly missed. Heaven has truly gained an angel. Keeping you in my prayers.*

*Teresa Hadwiger*

**Teresa Hadwiger** - March 10, 2020 at 11:28 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Wayne E. Olson.*



March 09, 2020 at 05:52 PM



“ *known Wayne through my dad as a fireman. got a lot of respect for Wayne for all that he has done with the community and his family*

*Anthony Garrelts*

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**Anthony Garrelts** - March 09, 2020 at 02:55 PM



“ *Wendee Rush (Thies) lit a candle in memory of Wayne E. Olson*



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**Wendee Rush (Thies)** - March 07, 2020 at 08:16 PM



“ *Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wayne E. Olson.*



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March 07, 2020 at 08:34 AM



“ *Developed a friendship as seniors in high school. Continued after we both married and had families. But as happens, life took us down different paths as well as different states. But whenever we could be together, we had fun times. From frog giggin out of the North Platte river, and frying them up, to class reunions, to boating at Lake McConahay. You will be missed old friend. Rest in peace. Larry and Jayne Tesar*

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**Larry Tesar** - March 06, 2020 at 08:10 PM



“ I remember Wayne fueling a gas station out of his big fuel truck, massive pummels of fumes coming out of the large hose in his left hand and holding a lit cigarette in his right hand. That was 40 years ago, I am so happy for the family that Wayne lived to this very old age.

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**Espen Schiefloe** - March 06, 2020 at 06:32 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Wayne E. Olson.



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March 05, 2020 at 06:37 PM



“ I only have known Wayne for a few years--He was always around being a friend and helper to my brother, LaMoyne Fern as LaMoyne became less independent. I appreciate his kindness and friendship. My prayers and thoughts are with the family. Hope the memories of such a nice man will provide comfort.

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**Betty Harty** - March 05, 2020 at 05:51 PM

CJ

“ A memory.. where to even begin? Sleepovers with Tiffani at this big beautiful home. Rich with dark wood, something amazing being cooked in the kitchen by Wayne’s hands, laughter and love. The Conoco vs Phillips 66 “rivalry” (it wasn’t really, just good-natured humor). How Wayne always pulled his steering wheel down so that it was completely vertical. I was fascinated by this. Never understanding why and then watching Tiffani and Greg do the same. I attempted to do this myself, but never looked as cool as they did. Hot summer days and nights at Summer Haven Lake. Going around and around the lake and laughing until we could not take it anymore. His warmth and caring and love for his family. And the same for my family. To my Olson’s— We are so deeply sorry for your loss. I had so much respect for your dad. Many hearts are heavy, but I hope that perhaps at some point messages like these can make you smile, even if just a little. I love you all.  
Christy Arent Johnson

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**Christy Arent Johnson** - March 05, 2020 at 02:25 PM

TO

*I love you Christy. Thank You💕*

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**Tiffani Olson** - March 05, 2020 at 06:05 PM

DT

“ So sorry for your loss- husband was on the fire department for many years with Wayne. Great guy.  
May God grant you peace during these difficult days.

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**Dean & Pat Pennington - Laguna Vista TX** - March 05, 2020 at 08:50 AM