



Elmer Olson

May 15, 1922 - April 27, 2012

Elmer Olson, 89, of Wadena, MN passed away April 27, 2012 at Fair Oaks Lodge in Wadena. Elmer was born on May 15, 1922 in Sebeka to Lars and Anna (Gulickson) Olson. He was raised on the family homestead northeast of Bluegrass in North Germany Township and attended rural school. Elmer served in the US Navy from 1942 to 1946 in the South Pacific aboard the USS Zuni, in Hawaii and in New Caledonia. On April 20, 1946 Elmer was united in marriage to Doris Grose of Parkers Prairie at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena. Their marriage was blessed with two children. Elmer worked in construction with his brother in Sandy, OR and then in Wadena for Olson Construction. In 1966, Elmer and Doris opened Elmer's Paint and Glass in downtown Wadena. Elmer turned the business over to his son in 1987 and continued to play an active role during the summer and fall until 2000. Elmer and Doris enjoyed spending time at their lake home on Big Pine Lake and at their Canadian get-a-way on the Lake of the Woods. Beginning in 1987, they sought the sun in Arizona. For 20 years, they spent their winter months in their home at Mesa, AZ. Elmer enjoyed his family, friends, golf, travel and a good life. Elmer was very involved in the Wadena community in many ways. He served on the Fire Department for 22 years and was secretary/treasurer and chief during this time. He was a member of the Wadena Elks, the VFW, and Chamber of Commerce. He has been a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church since 1946. Elmer is survived by his wife Doris, his children Joyce Duncan of Maplewood, Dennis (Jeanne) Olson of Wadena, and grandson

Kevin Olson. He was preceded in death by his parents Lars and Anna; brothers Edwin, Oscar, and Lester; and sisters Alice and Olive. Memorial services will be held on Monday, May 7, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena, with Pastor Marilyn Breckenridge officiating. Honorary pallbearers will be the current and retired members of the Wadena Fire Department. Inurnment will be in the Minnesota Veteran's Cemetery by Little Falls, MN.

Tribute Wall

NV

“ *Dear Doris and family:
We were sorry to hear of Elmer's passing.
We have fond memories of times spent together with you and Elmer.
You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.
Nestor & Evelyn*

Nestor & Evelyn Vorderbruggen - April 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ *My earliest memories of the Olson family come from the time we were neighbors. Elmer, Doris, Joyce and Dennis lived across the street on Howard Avenue. When I grew up I shopped at Elmer's Paint and Glass.
Elmer was a hard-working man, a successful business man.
My heart goes out to Doris, Dennis, and Joyce and Dennis' wife and son, Jeanne and Kevin. You have been so kind and helpful these past few years. I know it was appreciated. I am thinking about all of you as you deal with this difficult time.
With love, Mary Ellen*

Mary Ellen Kennedy Kollodge - April 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ *Dear Aunt Doris & Cousins Joyce and Dennis,
I/we have much to say as we remember your beloved husband and father. That will wait until we see you face to face. For now, know that we love you and will pray that Jesus will wrap you in His loving arms.*

Larry Gedde - April 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM