



## Roger Olson

December 13, 1944 - August 10, 2009

Roger Olson of Wadena, MN died on Monday, August 10, 2009, at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Fergus Falls. Roger died, at age 64, from complications of frontotemporal dementia, a form of dementia attacking victims in the prime of their life. To learn more about this rare and difficult-to-diagnose disorder, go to [www.aftd.com](http://www.aftd.com). Roger was born December 13, 1944, in Owatonna, MN, to Clifton G. and Norma (Aaseng) Olson. He attended school in McIntosh, MN, graduating in 1962. Following graduation, he attended North Dakota School of Business in Fargo, ND, and later attended Bemidji State University earning a BS degree in elementary education. While attending BSU, he met his future wife, Christine Johnson. They were married on December 26, 1971, in Hines. Roger served in the US Navy as a Personnelman for eight years, from 1969 until 1976. His first tour of duty was aboard the USS Elkhorn, a gasoline tanker, during the Viet Nam Conflict. His second tour of duty was spent in Nashville, TN, where he was attached to the Recruiting Command. Both of the couple's children were born while stationed in Nashville. Roger was an elementary teacher at Verndale Public Schools from 1979 until his disability forced his early retirement in January 2002. He taught sixth grade most of those years, ending his career by teaching computers to elementary students. His students likely remember their sixth grade year by their participation in the Olsonville project - a city within the classroom. Roger was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and a former member of the Mit-Ti-Quab Archery League. He was known for his love of

computers, scroll sawing, walking, and camping. Funeral services were held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena, at 11:00 AM on Friday, August 14, 2009. Pallbearers were Bob & Judy Schultz, Marlys McIntire, Steve Babcock, Lyle Haraldson, and Dave Seaton. Interment was in the Lakeview Cemetery in Blackduck. He is survived by his wife, Chris; daughter, Greta (Jason) Seitz of Bemidji; son, Jonathan (Katy) of Hudson, WI; grandchildren, Owen and Weston Seitz, Selby and Grady Olson; brother, Clifton, Jr. (Lois) of Goodyear, AZ; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Alan & Nancy Swenson of Osceola, WI; and nieces and nephew, Krischelle (Scott) Tennessen, Chad (Merry Joy) Olson, and Julie (Mark) Olson. He was preceded in death by his parents; his in-laws, Bill and Evelyn Johnson of Hines; and nephew, Jeffrey Swenson. Memorials can be directed to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena, Wadena Humane Society, Wadena City Library, or the Minnesota Veterans Home of Fergus Falls.

# Tribute Wall

EP

“ Roger was a loyal member of the Mit-ti-Quab Archery Club of Wadena for many years, shooting both in competition and league. He was always pleasant and had a positive attitude. When he had to give up shooting, he was missed. My sincerest condolences to his family.

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**Elroy Podratz** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Dear Olson Family,

*My deepest sympathy to you. I know that there isn't anything I can say to take the pain away, but please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Mr. Olson was by far one of the best teachers I ever had! He always made sure that everyone was included and if you needed extra help he was there with a smile. Then there was Olsonville, best part of 6th grade!!*

*Sincerely,  
Melissa Bussinger*

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**Melissa (Alfson) Bussinger** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ I moved from Missouri to Verndale in 1984, and Mr. Olson was my 6th grade teacher. I had never had a male teacher before, but he made me comfortable. He was very caring and helpful. He helped me adjust to a new school and new surroundings. I am so very sorry to hear of his passing. I will always remember his generosity and caring. I will also remember Olsonville, we looked forward to it every day.

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**Karen Black-Burcham** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Chris and Family,  
Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your husband, father and grandfather. We all know that Roger is now in a better place, but the heartache is no less. We wish that friends, family and memories will get you through this difficult time. Terry and Mary

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**Mary and Terry Lynk** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ Dear Chris,  
My deepest sympathies to you today. I realize that in some ways Roger has been "lost" to you already. Yet he was also here, and you have been such a faithful companion to him through it all. May God give you solace and peace now and always.  
Susan Thompson

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**Susan Thompson** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ I am a para at Verndale School and I remember how welcome Roger made me feel. I remember his smile. He will be missed . He is at peace for he is with the angels.  
Sharyl Olson

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**Sharyl Olson** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ I taught with Roger at Verndale for several years. He was a wonderful, caring, dedicated teacher and so fun to teach with. He was always smiling and loved to laugh. I have many great memories of Roger and the experiences we shared at Verndale. He was an awesome person.

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**Lu Ann (Johnson) Prescher** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

B(

“ So sorry to hear about your loss. Reading the Obituary, I will never forget my 6th grade experience in Mr. Olson's class. The concept of Olsonville was so great! I still actually have some of the things that we did for Olsonville...your family is in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless!

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**Becky Ludovissie (Callahan)** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Hi Chris. We are very saddened to hear of Roger's death. We know that life hasn't been good for a long time. Memories are there when he taught my kids in school. He was a magnificent teacher, especially with the "Olsonville" times! We will NOT forget Roger. God bless you, Chris during this difficult time. When we are in the prime of our married lives, we never think of times like this to come. We are just busy with our wonderful lives together. Take care. Diane and Larry Hahn

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**Diane and Larry Hahn** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Dear Chris and family,

*My deepest sympathy to all of you during this difficult time.*

*I did substitute teaching in Verndale and loved to sit and visit with Roger. He loved teaching and the students loved him. The educational system was very fortunate to have Roger as one of its educators.*

*We will miss him.*

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**Judy Erdahl** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Chris and Family

*Thinking of you all and praying that God's love will continue to grow within you.*

*John, You also have a special place in my heart and you and your family will be in my prayers.*

*God's Blessings to you all.*

*"Till you're together*

*forever in time,*

*Thank God for the memories*

*Roger (Dad) has left behind"*

*I am sorry that I did not know Roger. But know John and Chris.*

*Marge*

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**Marge Mohs-Harrison** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Mitch, Beth, Hunter and Mason Mohs*

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**Mitch Mohs** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ May God Heal your sorrow & replace the pain you feel today with Warm & Loving Memories. Our Sincere Sympathy!

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**Karen & Craig Gaasvig** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Thinking of the Olson family! You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Dory Pohl** - August 10, 2009 at 12:00 AM