

Donald Milton Olson was born November 29, 1933, on a farm near Sherman, SD to Melvin and Ellen (Anderson) Olson. He was baptized and confirmed in the Christian faith at First Lutheran Church of Sherman. He graduated from Garretson High school in 1951. A life-long farmer and member of the Garretson community, Donald Milton Olson was a dandy of a man with a great sense of humor.

Don answered the call to serve and joined the Army in 1954 where he was stationed in Germany. He was honorably discharged in 1956. He truly enjoyed being on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC with his son Dean in 2022. Watching the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier stood out as a key memory.

He married Mildred Hegge on February 5, 1955, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, the start of 71 wonderful years of marriage.

Respected for his faith, commitment to family and service to others, Don spent many years teaching Sunday School, serving on Church Council and singing in the choir. He demonstrated his commitment to agriculture by serving on the ASCS board, the elevator board and supporting the Garretson FFA to name just a few.

Don and Mildred were always up for an adventure and pulling a few pranks. Fishing trips to Canada, cruises to Alaska and through the Panama Canal; trips to Niagara Falls, New York, Washington DC, South Padre Island, California, Banff, Canada, and Reynosa, Mexico were just a few of the memories they made. They also loved ballroom dancing in Luverne and square dancing with a group from Pipestone. A special memory with dear friends was trick or treating disguised as couch potatoes. None of their neighbors could identify them! In their retirement years they enjoyed 20 plus winters at Trophy Gardens in Alamo, Texas.

He enjoyed bowling and spent countless hours working and bowling at the Garretson Lanes bowling alley. He also enjoyed tractor pulling competitions - bringing home numerous trophies.

He was a staunch supporter of his children and grandchildren coaching youth baseball, working on the football chain gang and combining corn picked off the ground by FFA members. Don and Mildred thought nothing of driving many hours to attend an event or activity for their kids and grandkids.

Don was especially happy spending time at the lake with his son's family; riding jet skis and encouraging his grandkids in games and other activities.

Don passed peacefully Sept. 11, 2026, at Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls surrounded by his family. The family is grateful to his grandson Todd Whitaker for the special care provided in the last few weeks of his life.

Grateful for the years they shared, Don is survived by his wife of 71 years, Mildred; his children, Donna (Carl) Schaefer, Peggy Whitaker, Dean (Cindy) Olson, Nancy (Matt) Krull; 13 grandchildren, and 1 great granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters; son, David; son-in-law, Archie Whitaker; grandson, Anthony Wigton; as well as numerous brothers- and sisters-in-law.

In Loving Memory

Donald Milton Olson

November 29, 1933 ~ September 11, 2026

Funeral Service

11:00 AM Thursday

September 17, 2026

First Lutheran Church
Sherman, South Dakota

Clergy

Vicar Sue Hodne

Organist

Ruth Hoiland

Music

Beautiful Savior: no. 518

How Great Thou Art: no. 532

Just As I AM: no. 296

Pallbearers

Jeff Hegge Bruce Lowe Claire Berger

Kyle Wigton Sally Krull Conor Fisher Maggie Krull

Lydia Howe Thomas Howe Leah Olson

Military Honors

American Legion Henry G. Fix Post #23

Garretson, South Dakota

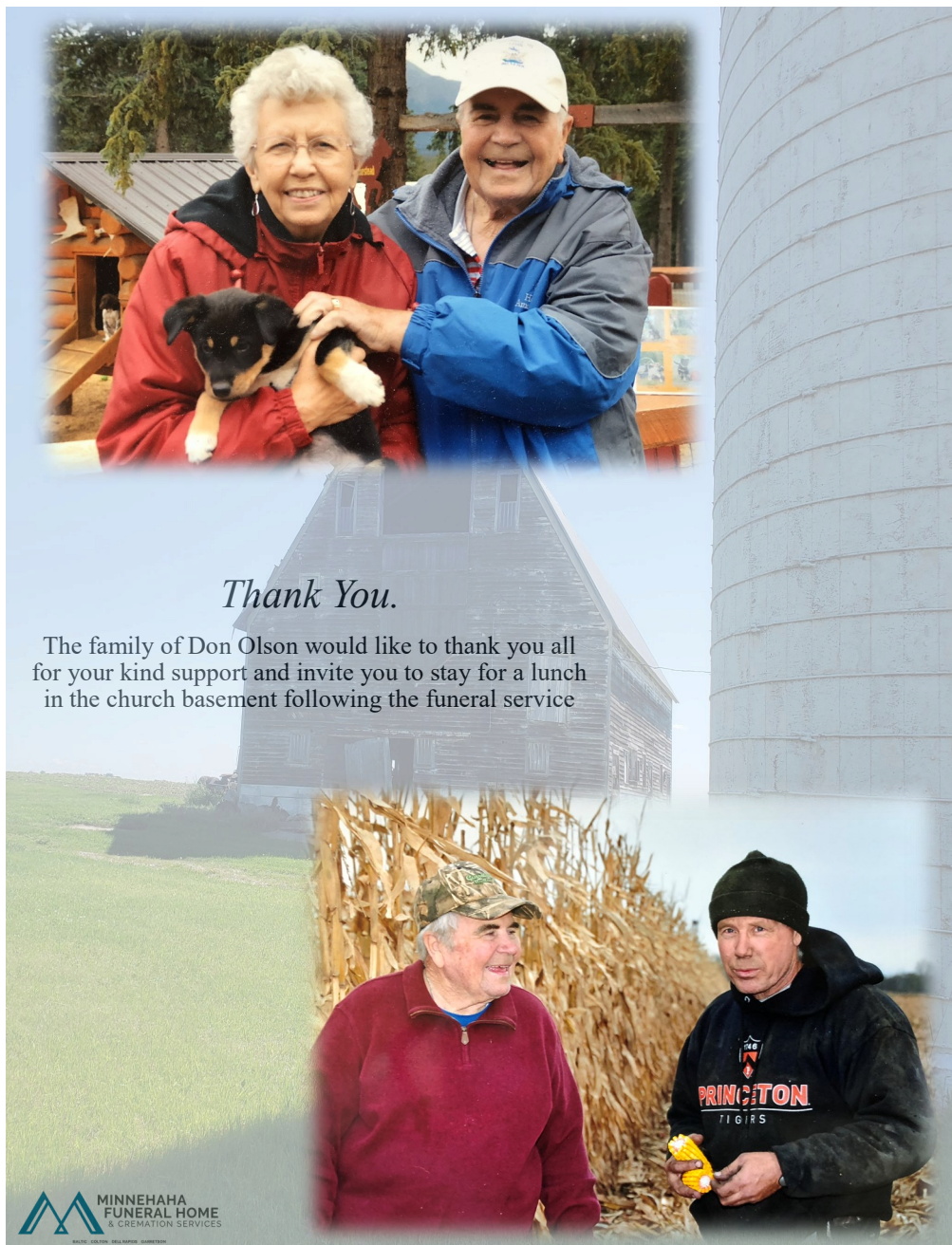
Interment

Highland Cemetery South

Sherman, South Dakota

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

A Life Remembered



Thank You.

The family of Don Olson would like to thank you all for your kind support and invite you to stay for a lunch in the church basement following the funeral service



Donald M. Olson

November 29, 1933 ~ September 11, 2026