

Thomas Lee Olson

March 4, 1947 - July 10, 2023

Thomas Lee Olson, 76, of Humble, Texas passed away on July 10, 2023 while visiting his daughter in his beloved Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He was born March 4, 1947 in Escanaba, Michigan to Irene Evelyn (Thompson) and Leonard Emil “Gump” Olson.

Tom attended Escanaba schools graduating in 1965. He was active in football, choir and served as President of Student Council. He enjoyed staying in contact with his classmates and attending class reunions. He attended Northern Michigan University for two years and then transferred to Alma College where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Education (secondary social studies) in 1969. He began his teaching career at LaSalle High School in St. Ignace, MI and taught there for twelve years. He served as a class advisor to many of the classes. He then taught secondary social studies in Humble ISD for 39 years, retiring in 2020. Since his retirement, he enjoyed subbing and being back with students and former colleagues. Teaching was truly a calling for him. He remained in contact with many of his former students and recently enjoyed celebrating high school reunions in St. Ignace, MI. His students lovingly referred to him as “Mr. O.” His favorite pastimes were playing cards, watching Jeopardy, reading and writing fiction.

He married his wife, the former Joyce Clark Wightman, on June 21, 1980 in Iron River, MI. They recently celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary. Tom

was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Mark Olson. He is survived by his wife Joyce; three daughters; Helmi Olson, Iron Mountain, MI; Sarah Hunt (Dave), Wheaton, IL; and Kristen Knecht (Ronnie) Kingwood, TX; his six beloved grandchildren who called him Papa; RC Knecht (8), Sawyer Hunt (7), Jackson Knecht (4), Sophia Hunt (4), Evelyn Knecht (2) and Harrison Hunt (1); two brothers; Jerry (Jean) Olson, Bloomington, IN; Mike Olson, Escanaba, MI and several nieces and nephews.

Tom and his family were lifelong supporters of Presbytery Point Camp in Michigamme, MI. He attended the camp as a camper and then served as a lifeguard, counselor and director. He was lovingly referred to by campers and staff as "Uncle Tom." Tom and Joyce served as camp managers for twenty summers. Their children spent summers at the camp and proceeded to serve as staff members in later years as well.

Tom was a lifelong Presbyterian and was a charter member of Atascocita Presbyterian Church, in Humble, TX. He served on several committees and enjoyed communicating and visiting with fellow church members.

There will be two memorial services celebrating Tom's life. The first one will take place on Saturday, August 19th at the First Presbyterian Church in Kingsford, MI. Visitation will take place from 9:30am-11:00am followed by the memorial service at 11am. The second service will take place at Atascocita Presbyterian Church in Humble, TX at a later fall date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be directed to either:

Presbytery Point Camp:
819 1st Avenue S.
Escanaba, MI 49829

Presbytery Point Camp: <https://www.presbyterypoint.org/>

or

Atascocita Presbyterian Church:

19426 Atasca Oaks Drive

Humble, TX 77346

Atascocita Presbyterian Church: <https://apchumble.org/give.php>

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **19**. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
395 Hamilton Avenue
Kingsford, MI 49802

Funeral Service

AUG **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
395 Hamilton Avenue
Kingsford, MI 49802

Tribute Wall

SB

“ Tom was a transfer student as I was to Alma College, MI. I always appolreciated his down to earth personality, his keen sense of humor, and the way he looked out for those he knew and cared about,(which was just about everyone). One of the many fond memories I I have was when, one night, he and a few friends stood below our dorm window and serenaded us during exam time. Fun times. We will all miss this bright soul and light. Sally Brandes

Sally Brandes - January 05, 2024 at 07:49 PM

DR

“ Tom was instrumental in my involvement at Presbytery Point Camp. I was a counselor at junior camp while Tom was directing and he was always upbeat and positive with kids and the staff. Many good times were had there and his family enjoyed their childhood at the Point. Our prayers and love go out to all of Tom's family. Karen and Dan

Daniel Richards - August 09, 2023 at 08:32 PM

KR

“ Sorry to hear about Tom's passing. We were roommates for two years while at Alma College and he was a joy to be around. Tom was always upbeat and positive and made many friends while in school. I was a year behind Tom and our lives went separate ways after school. I visited him in St. Ignace while he was teaching there but we never crossed paths again. We would keep up on our families and sports (especially football, Tom loved football) once a year. Tom will be missed, and I will always fondly remember the good times we had together in school. Thinking of his family at this time and the joy I know he brought to them.

Kent R.

Kent Rogers - August 07, 2023 at 05:33 PM

TM

“ The Class of '73 St. Ignace MI planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Thomas Lee Olson.

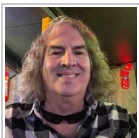
The Class of '73 St. Ignace MI - July 28, 2023 at 12:32 PM

TM

“ The Class of '73 St. Ignace MI purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Thomas Lee Olson.



The Class of '73 St. Ignace MI - July 28, 2023 at 12:32 PM



“ Tom was my "work neighbor" for 10+ years. He was a joy to work with and will be missed. My condolences to his family and friends.

Vinny Kane - July 23, 2023 at 12:11 AM

AW

“ I was two years behind Tom in school, and he and his twin Mike were the super cool older guys that my friends and I all looked up to. The entire Olson family--Gump and Irene and all the boys--were a strong presence at First Presbyterian in Escanaba. The world is a little dimmer without him. My sincere condolences on your loss.

Ann Beck Wood - July 17, 2023 at 10:27 PM