

A HERO'S WELCOME

TIME TO COME HOME DEAR BROTHER
YOUR TOUR OF DUTY THROUGH
YOU'VE GIVEN AS MUCH AS ANYONE
COULD BE EXPECTED TO DO.

JUST A FEW STEPS FURTHER
THE SMOKE WILL START TO CLEAR
OTHERS HERE WILL GUIDE YOU
YOU HAVE NO NEED TO FEAR.

YOU HAVE NOT FAILED YOUR BROTHERS
YOU CLEARLY GAVE IT ALL
AND THROUGH YOUR SELFLESS ACTIONS
OTHERS WILL HEAR THE CALL.

SO TAKE YOUR PLACE OF HONOR
AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE
AND KNOW YOU WILL BE REMEMBERED
AS A HERO NOW AND EVERMORE.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MICHAEL OLSON
BELOVED HUSBAND, FATHER, SON,
GRANDSON, AND FRIEND





Michael Olson, formerly of Watertown, SD, passed away on April 6, 2025, in Chicago, IL.

Michael Matthew Olson was born on June 19, 1966, in Watertown, SD, to James S. Olson and Anita M. Gerber. Michael attended grade school in Florence, SD, middle school in Madison, SD, and graduated from Watertown High School. Michael immediately enlisted in the United States Navy, traveling to boot camp the day after his high school graduation. Graduating color from the Navy Great Lakes Naval Station, Michael went on to serve 9 years in the Navy, eventually becoming the youngest ever naval company commander at the age of 21. Throughout his time in the Navy, Michael was awarded multiple medals and awards, and acted as the

leading petty officer on his final voyage.

Following Michael's time in the military, he moved to Detroit where he began working for Ford Motor Company in November 1996 until the time of his passing. He was a dedicated member of the Ford team, eventually being accepted into the trades program at the company.

Michael was also a passionate member of the United Auto Workers Local Chapter 551 where he worked tirelessly as a champion for working families, serving as an advocate and a voice for justice. Michael's intelligence made him a valuable asset to the UAW, as he committed his time to several committees and campaign runs. He devoted much of his time to the Citizenship and Legislative Committee, ensuring that union voices were heard.

Michael enjoyed watching the news, reading the newspaper, and being involved in politics. He prided himself on being well-informed on current events, which benefited him in his work with the UAW. He was a kind and generous man with a quick wit and wickedly good sense of humor. Most of all, Michael cherished moments spent with his family, particularly the several adventures they were able to share within the last couple of years.

Michael is survived by his beloved wife, Veronica; daughters: Kirsten (Troy Gallup) Olson, of MI, and Rachel (Joshua) Johnson, of MI; granddaughter Charlotte Johnson; mother, Anita Gerber of Clark, SD; grandmother Margaret Bergh, of Watertown, SD; brothers: Brian (Gwen) of TN, and Jon (Nancy) Gerber of CO; nieces Addison and Lilyan Gerber; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his father, James Olson; grandparents: Joyce and Don Olson, and Perry Bergh; and a daughter, Elizabeth.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

MICHAEL MATTHEW OLSON

JUNE 19, 1966 APRIL 6, 2025

FUNERAL SERVICE

2:00 P.M. MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025

*GOODHUE LUTHERAN CHURCH
FLORENCE, SOUTH DAKOTA*

OFFICIANT

PASTOR LAURA OVERBO

MUSIC

*BILL ZUBKE - MUSICIAN
CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS
BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR*

*CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER
I'LL FLY AWAY - ALISON KRAUSS AND GILLIAN WELCH
ETERNAL FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE (NAVY HYMN) -
UNITED STATES NAVY BAND*

SPECIAL READINGS

*BILL ZUBKE
ADDISON GERBER*

PALLBEARERS

*KELLY MATTESON MARK MATTESON LEE BRUNS
STEVE HAHN BRIAN GERBER JON GERBER*

INTERMENT

*GOODHUE LUTHERAN CEMETERY
FLORENCE, SOUTH DAKOTA*

FOLLOWING THE SERVICE, BURIAL WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CHURCH CEMETERY. A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP WILL FOLLOW BURIAL IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT.

THE FAMILY OF MICHAEL OLSON THANKS YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY, FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, PRAYERS, AND OTHER ACTS OF KINDNESS SHOWN TO THEM.