

January 30, 2006

Obit: Robert J. Olson



- Funeral services for Robert J. Olson, 76, of Groton will be 2:00pm, Tuesday, January 31st at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Rev. David Janes will officiate. Inurnment will follow at the Groton Union Cemetery with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, in charge of arrangements. Military rites will be provided by American Legion Post #39.

- A prayer service will be 7:30pm, Monday, January 30th at the church with visitation to follow.

- Robert died January 28, 2006 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.

- Robert J. Olson was born December 16, 1929, to Robert L. and Vera (Howe) Olson at Forestburg, SD. He was the second of three boys. Robert graduated from Forestburg in 1947. In November 1950, he enlisted in the US Navy and served in the Korean War as a teletype operator on several battle ships in Korean waters. His battalion was the group that set-off the first hydrogen bomb in the South Pacific. Robert was also granted top-secret clearance as a cryptographer. Following his discharge in 1954, Robert continued his education at Huron College receiving his BA in 1956 and his M. ED from S.D.S.U., Brookings in 1960. Robert also studied at U.S.D., Vermillion. Robert married Jean Rea, May 11, 1957, in Huron, SD. They were blessed with five children; Wade, Bret, Todd, Kay and Ryan. Robert was an educator for 33 ½ years, serving the South Dakota communities of McIntosh, Selby, St. Lawrence, Kadoka, Winner and Groton. He also served as interim Principal for Spencer and Bennett County and interim Superintendent for Redfield and Jefferson.

- Robert was a member of the Groton American Legion, VFW, and a past member of Kiwanis. He also had served as a Groton City councilman.

- Grateful for having shared in his life are his wife, Jean, Groton, three sons, Bret (Karma) Olson, Aberdeen, Todd (Cory) Olson, Apple Valley, MN, and Ryan Olson, Mitchell; one daughter, Kay (John) Sippel, Groton; two brothers, James (Dorothy) Olson, Boulder City, NV Leland (Betty) Olson, Mitchell and six grandchildren; Eric, Brittany, Shane and Alicia Olson; Cole and Regan Lewandowski.

- Robert was preceded in death by his son, Wade and his parents.

- Honorary Casketbearers will be his morning coffee group and all of his friends.

Robert J. Olson, 76

Robert J. Olson, 76, Groton, died Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006 at Avera St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen.

His funeral was Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2006 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton, with the Rev. David Janes officiating. Inurnment followed at the Groton Union Cemetery, with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, in charge of arrangements. Military rites were provided by American Legion Post #39. A prayer service was Monday at the church.



Robert J. Olson was born December 16, 1929 to Robert L. and Vera (Howe) Olson, Forestburg, SD. He was the second of three boys. Robert graduated from Forestburg in 1947. He enlisted in the US Navy, November 1950, and served in the Korean War as a teletype operator on several battle ships in Korean waters. His battalion was the group that set-off the first hydrogen bomb in the South Pacific. Robert was also granted top-secret clearance as a cryptographer. After his discharge in 1954, Robert continued his education at Huron College, receiving his BA in 1956 and his M. ED from SDSU, Brookings, in 1960. Robert also studied at USD, Vermillion.

Robert married Jean Rea, May 11, 1957 in Huron, SD. They were blessed with five children; Wade, Bret, Todd, Kay and Ryan.

Robert was an educator for 33½ years, serving the South Dakota communities of McIntosh, Selby, St. Lawrence, Kadoka, Winner and Groton. He also served as interim Principal for Spencer and Bennett County and interim Superintendent for Redfield and Jefferson. He was a member of the Groton American Legion, VFW, and a past member of Kiwanis. He also had served as a Groton City councilman.

Grateful for having shared in his life are his wife, Jean, Groton; three sons, Bret (Karma) Olson, Aberdeen; Todd (Cory) Olson, Apple Valley, Minn., and Ryan Olson, Mitchell; one daughter, Kay (John) Sippel, Groton; two brothers, James (Dorothy) Olson, Boulder City, Nev., and Leland (Betty) Olson, Mitchell, and six grandchildren, Eric, Brittany, Shane and Alicia Olson, Cole and Regan Lewandowski.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents and one son, Wade.

Honorary casketbearers will be his morning coffee group and all of his friends.