

# Obituaries

August 14, 2013

## Roy Olson, 58

Roy Olson, 58, Groton, died Sunday, Aug. 11, 2013, surrounded by his family at his home.

His funeral will be 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 15, 2013 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton, with Pastor Elizabeth Johnson officiating. Burial will follow in Groton Union Cemetery, with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, in charge of arrangements. Visitation will be 5-7 p.m. at the church, Wednesday, with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

Roy Leonard Olson was born Monday, May 23, 1955 to Maurice and Arlene (Nelson), Aberdeen, SD. He was baptized into the Christian faith at First English Lutheran Church, June 19, 1955. He grew up on the family farm at the north end of Main St., Groton. He attended Groton High School, graduating in the class of 1973.

Roy confirmed his faith at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, May 25, 1969. He was a life-long active member of First English Lutheran, which was renamed Emmanuel, when the new church building was constructed. He served on the congregation council and twice was president of the congregation. He loved to sing and was a member of the church choir. He held various other positions in the congregation.

Roy was united in marriage with Debra Hoops, May 21, 1983 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. They were blessed with two sons, Nicholas and Justin.

In the fall of 1973, Roy joined the water well drilling business with his father, Maurice. In the 1980s, they branched out into the excavation business. Following Nick's graduation from college, Nick joined Roy in the business. Justin also worked with his Dad after his graduation. Roy was a long-time member of the South Dakota Well Drillers Association and attended many continuing education events.

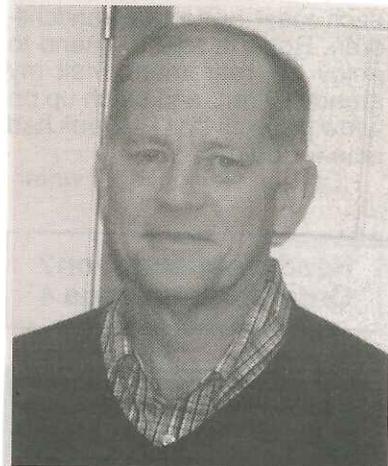
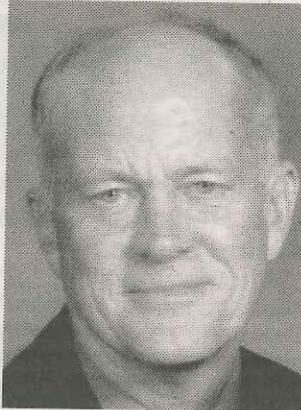
Roy took an active part in the Groton community. He was elected to two terms as Mayor, serving from 2007 to 2013. He was a longtime member of the Groton Chamber.

Roy began the Olson Development in 2003. He turned pasture and cropland into a beautiful residential addition to Groton.

Roy is survived by his wife, Debra; two sons, Nicholas (Stephanie) Olson, Aberdeen, and Justin Olson, Groton; one brother, Phillip (Virginia) Olson, Eldorado, Iowa; one sister, Eileen (Ed) Brandt, Meridian, Idaho; stepmother Lila Olson, Groton; mother-in-law, Beulah Hoops, Groton; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends, and his dog, Tucker. He was preceded in death by his mother, Arlene, July 5, 1982; his father, Maurice, March 2, 2002, and his father-in-law, Clifford Hoops, November 6, 2012.

Honorary casketbearers will be City of Groton employees and members of the City Council. Casketbearers will be Stan Knudsen, Terry Herron, Bill Stolle, Alan Strom, John Lowary and Greg Clocksene.

*May his memory be blessed among us.*



Groton Mayor Roy Olson

## Mayor is mourned

Groton Mayor Roy Olson died Sunday after a courageous battle with cancer at the age of 58. The community as a whole is saddened at the loss of this good man.

He is remembered as a strong community leader and will be greatly missed.

Olson was elected as mayor in 2007 and recently re-elected in April. He previously served on the Groton City Council.

Olson grew up and attended school in Groton, graduating in 1973. He had undergone cancer treatments and surgeries for more than six years.

He owned Olson Backhoe and Trenching, working on a number of city projects. He contributed to the city's growth by creating Olson Development, a subdivision north of US Hwy. 12 in Groton.

An interim mayor will be elected by the Groton City Council, either from the council or city residents.

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