



# Millard "Mike" Olson

JUL 15, 1930 - SEP 10, 2024



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## Millard "Mike" Olson

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**M**illard "Mike" Olson

Born July 15, 1930 in Park River, North Dakota

Passed September 10, 2024 in Happy Valley, Oregon

Millard "Mike" Olson was born on July 15, 1930, in Park River, North Dakota. He was the sixth of

nine children in a close-knit family. The family moved frequently (a trend he continued in his

adulthood and passed down to some of his children). In addition to North Dakota, they lived in

Washington, Oregon and Minnesota. He joined the National Guard, then served in the Navy for

four years, traveling literally around the world.

In 1951, Mike, then in the Navy, met his to-be wife Lillian, from Montreal, Canada, while they

were each on holiday in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Mike and his buddies assisted Lillian and

her friend with their "flat" bicycle tires. A budding romance ensued and they were married in

Tennessee, where Mike was stationed, in 1953. They soon moved back to Springfield, Oregon,

where they raised their five children.

Mike spent the majority of his career as a building contractor, responsible for the construction of

thousands of houses and major properties from Oregon, New Mexico, Arizona, Alberta,

Washington, and beyond. Leaving a physical legacy was a point of pride and



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satisfaction.

When Mike turned 80 in 2010, he wrote his memoirs: "My Life as I Remember it - Don't Confuse

It with the Facts." In the first chapter, "The Vagabond", he reflected on his life through the lens of

the houses he lived in - he was up to 45 at that time. Since then he lived in three additional

homes, the final being with his two sons in Happy Valley, Oregon, where he passed peacefully

in his sleep on September 10, 2024. Mike was 94 years young.

Mike is survived by his five children: Paul Olson, David Olson, Valerie (James) Walker, Kris

(Rick) Roberts, and Nancy Olson. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren (Michael, Matthew,

Meaghan, Bethany, Zachary, James, Josiah, Jael, Julissa, Austin, Tristin, Jorgen, Stephan, and

Anaelle), 16 great-grandchildren and three sisters, Eulala "Lolly" Morris, Flores (Larry) Cox, and

LouAnn (Dick) Chalmers. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Lillian Kathryn Florence

Evans Olson, parents Oluf and Minnie Olson, brothers Gordon, Narlan, Bertel, and Philip "Bud",

and sister Adele.

A celebration of life will be held for Mike on Saturday, September 28, at 2pm. It will take place at

Springfield Lutheran Church in Springfield, Oregon, which he and his father helped build and

where all his children were baptized. All are welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to organizations important to Mike and his family: Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince Haiti



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([gracecare.life](http://gracecare.life)), Young Life Springfield - OR30 ([springfieldor30.younglife.org](http://springfieldor30.younglife.org)), or Adult & Teen Challenge Pacific Northwest ([teenchallengepnw.org](http://teenchallengepnw.org)).



# Events


**Millard "Mike" Olson**

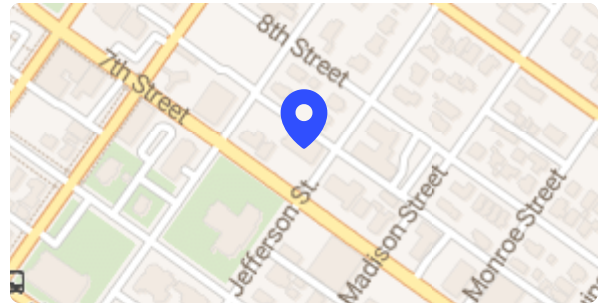
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## Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, September 28, 2024

 2:00 PM PT

 **Holman Hankins Bowker & Waud**  
715 7th St, Oregon City OR 97045





# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Millard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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