



Karl Philip Olson

August 16, 1966 - January 23, 2025

Karl P. Olson, 58, of Wapakoneta, died unexpectedly Thursday, January 23, 2025, in his home. He was born August 16, 1966, in Rockford, IL, the son of Harland and Belle-Mae (Hegre) Olson, who preceded him in death.

Karl was a graduate of Rockford East High School and he moved to Wapakoneta, Ohio, after high school. Karl lived a life that was dedicated to his community and helping others. He loved living in Wapakoneta, and he was a regular attendee at all of the local festivals, swap meets, and car shows. Karl was a legend in the community, and he was thrilled when he was asked to take a photo with someone due to his resemblance to “Joe Dirt”. Karl’s smile, laugh, and positive attitude were contagious to all that met him. Though he held many jobs in the community, many people first met him while serving as a gas station attendant at the now-closed Certified Oil full-service gas station in Wapakoneta. He also earned accolades for his work as the inside residential manager at the Koneta Hotel where his maintenance of the smoke detectors saved countless lives from the fire that destroyed the hotel in 2018. Most recently, Karl was an indispensable employee at the Wapakoneta Lowe’s. Karl had an extraordinary work ethic, and he took pride in every job he ever had. Karl was a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, Aerie #691 and a social member of the Alvin W. Metzger VFW Post #8445. Karl’s passing leaves a void in the community he has called home for nearly forty years that will be difficult to fill.

Survived by his siblings who reside in Illinois, Kelvin Olson, Kyle Olson, Kaia

(Matthew) Gottschalk, Kwynn (Kristin) Olson; several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. (ET) on Saturday, March 8, 2025 at Eley Funeral Home & Crematory, St. Rt. 501, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895.

Visitation will be from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (ET) prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to your favorite local festival or charity of your choice.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 8. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory
1102 Lincoln Ave.
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com
<http://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com>

Service

MAR 8. 3:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory
1102 Lincoln Ave.
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
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Tribute Wall

YL

“ Your family at Lowes purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Karl Philip Olson.



Your family at Lowes - March 07, 2025 at 09:39 AM

JH

“ He was one of those busy servant attitude in the background kinda guy getting things done, always helping whoever needed it with no regard for himself. Enjoyed always when he was around. Will be missed.

Jack Martin Hagerman - February 14, 2025 at 09:59 PM

LP

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Karl. We have so many memories of him from Grandpa Olson's birthday parties and other family gatherings. He was always a positive presence in this world. May he rest in peace. My deepest sympathies to Kelvin, Kyle, Kaia and Kwynn and their families.



Lori Parisi - February 13, 2025 at 03:07 PM

EH

“ He was a good friend always had time to listen and talk to you. There was never a stranger to him loved talking to everyone. Karl you will never be forgotten, so many people you known over the years will miss you. Till we meet again I say goodbye old friend.

Eric-Bobbi Howell - February 13, 2025 at 09:58 AM

HW

“ I first saw him at the gas station and after I started running my pony ride, I saw him at every fair and festival we went to around here. He always seemed to be going somewhere in a hurry. I will miss seeing him. so sad

Harriet D Whetstone - February 12, 2025 at 06:22 PM

AF

“ I first saw Karl at first Moon Festival i attended, my wife is from Wapak.. I too took a picture and showed it to my friends back home, that "Joe Dirt" is a real person and Lives in Wapak. Later that evening , after dark, my wife and I were walking thru town on our way to our car, I saw Karl walking down main street as if he was checking on everything, and commented to my wife, "he's still got his sunglasses on". She looked me straight in the eye and said, "you know why, because the sun never sets on cool". After the fire at the hotel, I heard to story and saw the pictures. I went back to all the friends I showed the picture to and told the story. I said, "Joe Dirt's real name is Karl Olson, and he's a hero in Wapak". To the family: here in Plainfield Indiana, there are people that know of Karl, and that he was a hero.

A friend - February 12, 2025 at 02:34 PM

EH

He was a good friend always had time to listen and talk to you, there was never a stranger to him loved talking to everyone. Karl you are never going to be forgotten, till we meet again I say goodbye old friend

Eric-Bobbi Howell - February 12, 2025 at 04:02 PM

BL

“ I work with Carl at Lowe’s and I was so glad I got to meet him and I was teasing him that he look like Joe dirt rip brother



brian lucas - January 30, 2025 at 05:57 PM

DO

“ My condolences to his two brothers Kelvin and kwinn and his baby sister Kiaia. He was a kind man.

Donna - January 29, 2025 at 01:36 PM

FR

“ Known him for 35 years a great friend I'll miss him but he is up there with pappy now

Frank - January 29, 2025 at 09:16 AM

SA

“ He was a good friend to the community. I known him since i was little. Very nice man.



Savannah - January 27, 2025 at 05:22 PM

KH

“ So sorry to hear this.



K & C Holtzapple - January 27, 2025 at 04:43 PM