



Vernon F. 'Vern' Olson
MM1(N) Gold Crew 1966-1969 Plank Owner
October 28, 1943 - August 31, 2017

Age 73, passed away on August 31, 2017 in St Cloud, Minnesota. He was raised on the family farm in Becker, Minnesota. Even though he had farm blood in his veins, he joined the United States Navy. He served his country for 20 years and retired at 39 years old. He was Machinist Mate Chief Petty Officer Olson. He attended several schools, becoming a welder and nuclear trained.

While in San Diego he met Joy Sides, who asked to drive his 1965 Corvette Stingray. They got married and drove that "vette" all the way to Groton, CT where he attended submarine school attaining the highest score in his class, the 2nd highest score in the history of the school.

After graduation from sub school, he was assigned to the USS Henry L Stinson, a nuclear powered sub where he stood "watches" on the nuclear plant. After coming back from the North Atlantic and being underwater for 2 months, his wife felt that being underwater that long wasn't healthy?? –he sold the little green convertible corvette to buy a horse! He was proud of his very 1st Arabian stallion!

The next duty station was the USS Bluefish in Virginia where son, Matthew, was born in 1971 in the oldest Navy hospital in the US. He bought a few acres in Chesapeake, VA. Virginia wasn't to be home for long as he was sent to Portsmouth, NH for ship repairs. While there, he bought his 2nd Arabian, a beautiful mare, who he trained for show and won ribbons with.

His 3rd duty station was aboard the USS Kamehameha. Vern was gone 6 months out of the year, 3 months at a time and spending as much as 60 days underwater. (Submariners are rightly called "bubble heads"...).

Vern was an unusual submariner, pulling into his duty station with a pick up truck and behind it a trailer full of horses!

He became a Chief Petty officer who drank 30 cups of coffee a day!

After so many years of sea duty, he became eligible for shore duty, so he became a Navy recruiter out of Portland, Oregon-his desk was in Pendleton, Oregon. The family bought a "ranch" in Hermiston, Oregon where daughter, Rachel, was born in 1974. Vern built a sturdy barn to house his growing horse herd. He trained his 2nd stallion to "drive" and also to pull a 2 wheeled jog cart, giving the kids rides around the field of hay he grew.

He was so proud of Roland Sands, the 2nd stallion he "drove" at the Pendleton Rodeo and Round Up parade. That horse was so well trained that it qualified for the US Arabian Horse Nationals.

In between raising kids, hay, reading Louis L'amour novels, training horses, he did some recruiting for the Navy, traveling to many towns to tell young men and women how great Navy life could be.

Three years was his limit on shore duty. The Navy moved the family back to CT. where he bought a 100 year old house and boarding stable in Mystic, CT. After getting settled in there, he once again moved to Oregon transferring from submarines to surface craft on the USS Lange. In 1978, the family transferred to San Diego and settled in Spring Valley. Again, he had horses in the back yard and Rachel had a pony named Minnesota.

Vern wasn't one to sit around after retirement he drove trucks and hauled horses around the country. Eventually he bought a string of ponies to give rides at Birthday parties, churches, Royal Family Kids Camp, pumpkin patches, and where ever else he could make money. He said this was the best job he ever had and he affectionately because known as "Vern the pony man". His 2 kids, Matthew and Rachel, made a ton of money giving pony rides which funded their college tuition.

Even when he resided in Arizona, Vern loved spending summers in Minnesota, fishing with his family and attending Family Reunions every Memorial Day weekend at Thunder Lake Lodge while fishing Big Rice lake. He loved all the potlucks, garage sales, and auctions too.

Vern loved Jesus, Bible studies, and church - rarely missing a Sunday or Wednesday night service.

Vern loved his family-he brought ponies to the grand kid's birthday parties, making a back yard swing and bringing them stuffed animals. Noah loves his little stuffed puppy from "Papa Horse".


He lived a busy, full life, always on the go, always thinking of ways to make extra money!

Vern has been to the depths of the sea, but is now at his final duty station beyond the clouds in heaven with his Savior, Jesus Christ.

Vern is survived by his children, Matthew (Joy) and Rachel; grandchildren, Titus, Piper, and Noah; siblings, Donna, Paul, Jerry, Jon, Randy, Donovan, and Joyce; other family and friends.

Memorial service at 11:00AM, Saturday, September 23, 2017 at Bridgeview Assembly of God Church (763-263-6274), 20500 County Road 11, Big Lake, Minnesota 55309.

OLSON VERNON F 776-11-84 MAZ (MMI-4/16/69)



WIFE'S NAME JOY M. OLSON

CHILDREN'S NAMES: 1. _____ 5. _____
 2. _____ 6. _____
 3. _____ 7. _____
 4. _____ 8. _____

HOME STATE & TOWN MINNESOTA BECKER
 (State) (Town)

PREVIOUS DUTY STATIONS SUB SCHOOL (1ST IN CLASS)
WELDING SCHOOL SANDVIG N.P.S. MAR+ ISLAND
NATV EDADO USS SPERRY AS12
MM 'A' SCHOOL

SPECIAL INTERESTS: HUNTING & HORSES

PROTOTYPE/MISSILE TRG. NPTU EDADO

EXPIRATION ACTIVE OBL SERVICE 16 JAN 73 ADBD 13 MAR 64

RELIGION ASSEMBLY OF GOD SERVICE NUMBER 776-11-84 TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE 3 YRS 6 MON

DEPT/DIV ASSIGNMENT M REPORTING DATE 7/17/67

SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS: B351 CREW ASSIGNMENT GOLD

DATE OF BIRTH 28 OCT 43 WIFE'S LOCAL ADDRESS: 855 MARLENE DR
 PLACE OF BIRTH ST CLOUD MINN LEOYARD, CONN