



## Richard Lyle Olson

September 7, 1954 - April 9, 2015

Troy-Richard “Rich” Lyle Olson of Lansingburgh, New York, entered into eternal life on April 9, 2015.

Born on September 7, 1954 to Francis and Alma Olson, Rich, along with his sisters Suzanne, Janet, and Nancy, was raised in the great Southern Tier town of Endwell, New York.

In his youth, Rich was incredibly active in the Boy Scouts, having earned the rank of Eagle Scout at the age of 13, which is among his most prized accomplishments. After graduating from Union-Endicott High School in 1972, Rich continued his studies at the State University of New York at Albany, graduating in 1975 with a Bachelor’s of Arts in Economics. Rich then went on to earn Masters degrees in Criminal Justice and Public Administration from the University at Albany, broadening his horizons for a promising career in public service. Shortly after graduating, Rich accepted a coveted position on the staff of New York State Senator Christopher Mega. During his tenure, he assertively led initiatives on the construction of the New York State Police Officers’ Memorial, the implementation of the Zero Tolerance Law, and the tireless education of youth in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program.

In 1995, Rich decided to follow his extraordinary passion for law enforcement, accepting an appointment by Governor George Pataki to serve in the New

York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Bureau for Municipal Police. He served there and in the Division of Parole until 2006, when he retired after over 25 years of faithful and diligent public service. A stalwart advocate for local law enforcement, Rich dedicated much of his free time to serving in the Ravena, Coeymans, and Green Island Police Departments as a patrol officer.

An active community leader, he was a recreational soccer and softball coach for his two children, an Assistant Scoutmaster of Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop 81 in Selkirk, a member of the South Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department, the Town of Bethlehem Planning Board, the New York State Troopers Foundation, and the New York State Troopers Police Benevolent Association. Among his family and friends, Rich will always be remembered for his wonderfully quick wit, brilliant memory, traditional charm, and exceptionally positive outlook on life.

Rich is survived by his two children, Heather of New York City and Thomas (Patricia) Olson of Alameda, California, his sisters Suzanne (Gene) Schultz, Janet (Cliff) Theve, and Nancy Neiley, nephew Nicholas (Francesca) Neiley and niece Katrina (Jamie) Schellens. He is predeceased by his parents and his brother-in-law Christopher Neiley.

Funeral services Monday, April 13, 2015 at 9:15 am from the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany and at 10:00 am at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Delmar.

Relatives and friends are invited and may visit Sunday, April 12, 2015 4:00 to 7:00 pm in the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, Rich would appreciate a donation to the National Spinal Cord Injury Association or to the Boy Scouts of America.

To leave a message for the family, obtain directions, light a candle or view other helpful services, please visit [www.McveighFuneralHome.com](http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **12**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.  
208 N Allen St  
Albany, NY 12206  
(518) 489-0188  
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com  
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

## Service

APR **13**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Delmar, NY

# Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Lyle Olson*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *May the words at Isaiah 25:8 bring you comfort " He will swallow up death forever, And the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces."*

M - August 29, 2015 at 12:56 PM



“ *Suzanne, Janet and Nancy.....Just thirty minutes ago, I learned of Rich's death from Anne Leer's husband, Bob Wickman. Nancy (Mattice) and I don't read the obits here regularly, and we certainly missed this one! I am so sorry for your loss, and I wish we had known.....We would have been there for certain. Rich was a good guy, for sure.*  
*Sue Mattice*

Susan Mattice - May 26, 2015 at 01:02 PM



“ *Janet, Suzanne, and Nancy, I am so sorry to hear of your brother's passing. I will keep your family in my thoughts.*  
*Elaine Errigo-Gilyard (Endwell, NY)*

Elaine Errigo-Gilyard - May 10, 2015 at 08:26 PM

MK

“ I and my soccer team buddies from the class of 72 were so looking forward to seeing Rich after not seeing him for so many years. The long conversation that he and i had last fall had me prepared for a great reunion....

I send my deepest sympathy to his family. Rich was a friend those many years back....his zest his wit his engagement were ever present. It is so fitting that Rich lived a full life and had accomplished so much. His old friends will raise a glass to him this summer!

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**Mark Kuzio** - April 18, 2015 at 06:53 AM

KA

“ I am saddened to learn of Rich's passing, and I send my condolences to the Olson family. I first met Rich during his undergraduate days at SUNY Albany, and later we shared a flat on Western Avenue for several years during graduate school. As I think back on my experiences with Rich and his friends from Endicott, so many enjoyable and humorous events come to mind. I can only sum it up by saying he was a great guy. He was restless, inquisitive, motivated by principle and interested in making a difference. Although I will miss him, I am reminded during this Easter season of the words of John Donne: "One short sleep past, we wake eternally, And death shall be no more ...."

*Ken Adams  
Dept. of Criminal Justice  
University of Central Florida*

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**Ken Adams** - April 15, 2015 at 01:11 PM

MA

“ Dear Suzanne, Janet and Nancy,

*What joy in Heaven when Richie arrived and your mom and Dad greeted him.....When Jack told me, I could just see them to-gether and Richie, their pride and joy, just like he was years ago..*

*My sincere sympathy to the three of you. It is hard to loose a brother. You did a beautiful job on the obituary.. What a full and productive life he led.*

*Yale Street will always be special, won't it? What happy years as kids....*

*Your mother was my vey closest friend , we talked about every thing.She was so kind and generous in every way. Your dad got Eddie doing the Senior taxes which the two of them did for years. I will be 90 May 11th, I just can't believe it but here it comes .Most of the time I feel pretty good, The "kids" have shut down my driving just a short block or so..is all I'm allowed.I miss it but I tell them that they mined me pretty good when they were little so I'll do my best to mind them now. Can you believe we have 42 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.*

*I have an empty bedroom up stairs, if you ever come and want to stay someplace. You know that you are as welcome at my place as you were so many years ago*

*Will one of you send me your address as I want to give something in Richie's name.*

*My address is: 717 Harpur Dr. Endwell, NY. 13760.*

*God bless all three of you.. As I write this I see each one of you in my mind's eye but you are much younger.....*

*With my love and sympathy,  
Mrs. Armstrong*

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**Mary Armstrong** - April 14, 2015 at 08:27 AM

CM

“ Dear Olson Family,  
Please accept my deepest sympathy on Rich's passing. We became friends while attending SUNY Albany and shared many a ride back home to the Binghamton area during the college years. Our paths crossed again when we both worked for the Republicans in the NYS Legislature. I attended his and Katie's wedding and stayed friends with them both throughout their marriage. I lost track of Rich over the years but always remembered him fondly and I cherish the friendship that we had for so many years. He will be missed.  
Carol Murphy (Kolesinskas).



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**Carol Murphy** - April 12, 2015 at 04:56 PM

BF

“ Dear Olson Family  
Please except my sincere condolences on the loss of Richard.  
My thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time.  
He was a wonderful man and he will be missed by all.  
Peace and Love, Bob Foody



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**Bob Foody** - April 11, 2015 at 02:32 PM

CW

Suzanne and family, my deepest sympathy on the loss of your brother. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.  
Chris Wilber

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**Chris Wilber** - April 12, 2015 at 07:50 AM