



## James Richard Olson

February 13, 1936 - June 16, 2025

James Richard Olson, 89, of Sterling Heights, Michigan, passed away peacefully on June 16, 2025. Born on February 13, 1936, in Detroit, Michigan, he was the son of the late John and Mary Olson.

Jim was a dedicated and accomplished engineer, having worked at General Motors for 44 years. His industrious spirit, hard work, and generosity of time and talent were evident in all aspects of his life. He was also known for his inquisitive nature and always eager to learn. He owned his own business, where he serviced and installed residential HVAC with his son Jim, and his late son, David. Working together was a special time they cherished.

Jim was a truly remarkable individual. Aside from his professional life, he was an avid golfer and enjoyed league bowling with his wife, Joan. He loved spending time at the family cottage, celebrating summer months at the lake. He frequently vacationed in Hilton Head with his family, where many memories were made. Jim was an active member of his community and neighborhood, always contributing positively to those around him. He had an undeniable sweet tooth, never known to turn down a scoop of ice cream or cookies.

Jim was the beloved husband of Joan Olson, with whom he shared 69 years

of marriage. He is survived by his loving children, James (Jenny), Susan, and Sherry (Brian). He was a cherished grandpa to Daniel, Joanna (Eddie), Stephen (Katelind), Whitney (Jeff), David (Lauren), Thomas, Michael (Jasmine), Rachel (Joey), Megan and Nicole. He was a proud great-grandpa to Savannah, Brody, Louisa, Maisy, Theo, Jeffrey, David James, Lena, and Silas. He is survived by his sister Jacquie and brother John. Jim will be deeply missed by his extended family, Mike, Kim, Carmen, Rommel, Brad, Emily, and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his son, David Olson, parents, John and Mary Olson, and his brothers, Joe and Henry Olson.

The family will greet friends at Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors of Sterling Heights on Sunday, June 22, 2025, from 3:00 PM until 8:00 PM. A funeral service will be held at Saint Jane Frances de Chantal on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 10:00 AM, with an instate period beginning at 9:30 AM.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in James' memory to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Fond memories and online condolences can be offered to the family on James' tribute wall at [www.MandziukFuneralHome.com](http://www.MandziukFuneralHome.com)

# Cemetery Details

**Private Service**

## Previous Events

### Funeral

JUN 22. 3:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights  
3801 18 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
(586) 997-3838

### Funeral

JUN 22. 3:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights  
3801 18 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
(586) 997-3838

### Visitation

JUN 22. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights  
3801 18 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
(586) 997-3838

## Memory Sharing

JUN **22**. 6:30 PM (ET)

Mandziuk & Son Funeral Directors, Inc. - Sterling Heights  
3801 18 Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48314  
(586) 997-3838

## Instate

JUN **23**. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Jane Frances deChantal Catholic Church  
38750 Ryan Rd  
Sterling Heights, MI

## Funeral Service

JUN **23**. 10:00 AM.

Saint Jane Frances De Chantal

## Funeral Service

JUN **23**. 10:00 AM.

Saint Jane Frances De Chantal

## Mass of the Christian Burial

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JUN **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Jane Frances deChantal Catholic Church  
38750 Ryan Rd  
Sterling Heights, MI

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ We knew Jim through our neighborhood association. When the subdivision was brand new in 2000, Jim was the first Board president. He took such good care of the whole subdivision as though it was his own home, helping the residents, expediting requests, carefully watching the budget, and setting a wonderful tone -- "this is our community and we look out for each other." That still exists, and we are so grateful to him. We send our sympathy to Joan and the whole family.

Sincerely,  
Alan and Ruth Bennett

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**Ruth Bennett** - June 22, 2025 at 05:25 PM

 Lillian  
LaFalce  
Clampitt

“ Am so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. . My deepest sympathy to Joan and the entire Olson family., from Lil LaFalce Clampitt.

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**Lillian LaFalce Clampitt** - June 22, 2025 at 10:54 AM

BM

“ I worked for Jim for several years at GM. He was. GREAT boss, mentor and genuinely good person. I stole MANY of his leadership traits and applied them successfully throughout my career. My deepest condolences to the family. Jim was truly a great man and colleague and I am forever in his debt. Bill Merritt

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**bill merritt** - June 22, 2025 at 10:25 AM

CS

“ Didn't get a lot of time with Mr. Olson, but he always made me feel welcome in his home and with his family. Memories of summer visits to the cottage fishing, cutting grass on the riding mower (ran over a snake once), the Boston Whaler, nightly bonfires. Simple stuff, but it stuck with me.

We had a great talk this past Thanksgiving about his long career at GM. I'm glad we got that time.

Tawnia, Ella, and I are sorry for your loss. He was a good man, and we'll remember him fondly.

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**Christopher D. Suggs** - June 21, 2025 at 03:21 PM

YC

“ Your friends from Comerica. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James Richard Olson.



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**Your friends from Comerica.** - June 21, 2025 at 10:11 AM

KF

“ With a heavy heart, I was so sad to hear about my dear friend Jim Olson.

Jim was the President of our Association for seventeen years. I had the privilege of working with him as the Vice President.

He was kind, helpful, giving, big-hearted and selfless with the entire community. The world lost a beautiful soul.

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**Kathleen Feiler** - June 20, 2025 at 07:08 PM

K<

“ Kaitlyn “Kelly” <3 purchased the Pretty Please for the family of James Richard Olson.



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**Kaitlyn “Kelly” <3** - June 20, 2025 at 06:45 PM

TL

“ It was Jim Olson who called me at Transportation Systems Division, saying “How’d you like to come back”? That saved my career life. Thank you Jim Olson.  
It was also Jim who formalized road test procedures at places like Davis Dam and Baker.

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**Tom Lockwood** - June 20, 2025 at 07:43 AM

SE

*My condolences to the family and friends of Jim. I have only known him for a short period of time but his smile and warm and welcoming personality was refreshing. It was a great honor to have known him.*

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**Sherry E'Lon** - June 21, 2025 at 08:34 AM

SK

“ Mr Olson was a kind person, smart, hard working, and fun to be with. I had the pleasure of knowing Mr Olson as my brother’s father in law ( Brian Kelly ). Lots of good memories with Jim, Brian, Dave, and Mike at the cottage. Always fun and good conversations about past projects and future plans for the cottage. Sometimes the furnace wouldn’t work and I saw Jim in action. Many of the comments are about how Jim helped with other HVAC projects. Jim and Dave updated my mom’s furnace and ac unit. They were a dynamic duo and finally together again. He made a lasting impression on me and so many others. He will be missed.

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**Scott Kelly** - June 19, 2025 at 09:45 PM

RO

“ I was saddened to learn of Jim’s passing. I have so much to thank him for in my career with GM. Jim was a true mentor and friend. He would challenge you on assignments and always be available to help and guide you when you needed help.

I recall after transferring to GMTB, Jim invited me to a duck hunting trip on Harsens Island. He really amazed me with his ability to identify the ducks as they were flying by, making sure we never shot beyond our limit.

Jim always talked highly of his family and friends. He will be truly missed and his memory will always be with me.

Ron Orlando



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**Ron Orlando** - June 19, 2025 at 08:27 PM

EM

“ I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Jim. Working alongside him was a privilege and an inspiration. He brought not only skill and dedication to every task but also a kindness and integrity that left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him. May his memory be a blessing to all.

Sincerely,  
Ed Mizgalski  
Fellow GM Retiree

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**Ed Mizgalski** - June 19, 2025 at 06:16 PM

JB

“ Jim was not only a mentor for me in HVAC at GM, he also helped me build my first and only house back in 1989 when I was stymied at how to run ducts when the downstairs walls did not line up with upstairs walls. Several HVAC guys did not want the job. But Jim with help from Dave did a great job. Still in the home today. He did much more that makes this story pale.

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**Jeff Bozeman** - June 19, 2025 at 04:36 PM

JH

“ I am very saddened to hear of Jim's passing. Our families were very close for decades, on both Bates Drive and Lighthouse Road. I have so many memories of his wit, talent for all things mechanical, countless trips to my parents to help with little projects, fishing in the Boston Whaler, his unique way of laughing, our sunny cottage summers, re-surfacing the tennis court, always driving a Suburban, casual chats with my parents and so much more. He always called me "Johnny" and gave me jobs as a teenager, painting and working with him on HVAC jobs. I fondly remember Jim and David working at my first home in Grosse Pointe Woods, updating the electrical service. Jim was a wonderful friend and neighbor and will be dearly missed. My condolences to the entire Olson family. John Hutchins

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**John Hutchins** - June 19, 2025 at 01:22 PM