



Olaf Odegaard

March 24, 1922 - March 17, 2017

Olaf Odegaard, 94, of Moses Lake, died in his home, surrounded by family on March 17, 2017.

Olaf was born on March 24, 1922 on a farm in Rodenes, Norway to Iver and Ingeborg Odegaard. He was the oldest of five children. As a child, he was remembered as being very busy, always having multiple activities going on at once. Olaf attended school until the age of 14, then worked on the family farm. He attended an agricultural college, worked on the farm and helped with the resistance during WWII while Norway was occupied by Germany. In 1951, when Olaf was 29 years old he came to America under the sponsorship of a fisherman friend. He arrived by boat to New York, then traveled by bus to Seattle where he reunited with Norwegian friends. Olaf spent his first year in America working on a dairy farm in Eatonville, he then spent four years in Alaska working on salmon traps. During his first years in America Olaf enjoyed spending winter months ski jumping. In 1956 Olaf and his lifelong friend, Rolf Dilling, leased an alfalfa farm in Block 40, north of Moses Lake. The Christmas of 1957 Olaf met Grethe Ekern, who was also Norwegian. The two were married on June 14, 1958. Olaf and Rolf farmed together for 9 years, and during that time Olaf and Grethe welcomed a daughter, Karen, and a son, Iver. In 1965, Olaf took over the farm. He later started a cattle operation after joining the Block 40 Grazing Association with six other families. Olaf continued to farm until he was 70 years old.

Olaf was an active member of the Sons of Norway and the Block 40

Community Club. Olaf was well known for his welcoming nature and hospitality, he enjoyed spending time with neighbors and friends. His daily 10 am coffee hour around the Odegaard kitchen table is well known and attended by many. He was a dedicated member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, for over 50 years, where he always arrived early and sat in the same pew. Later he became a member of Living Word Lutheran Church. He was a man of faith and was diligent in seeing that his children and grandchildren attended church.

Olaf made many trips back to Norway over the years, but never returned permanently, as once was planned. Moses Lake, and the farm, ended up being a better fit for his forever home. During one of his trips, he attended the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer in 1994. He also took his grandchildren to Norway when they were 12 to show them where he grew up. He last visited Norway in 2013.

Olaf is survived by his wife of 58 years, Grethe Odegaard, his children Karen Starr (Joel) of Vancouver, WA and Iver Odegaard (Laurie) of Moses Lake, WA. His six grandchildren: Mariel Weed (Nathan), Jessica Aboulhosn (Fadi), Lars Odegaard, Annalise Courtright (Jake), Kurt Starr, and Andrew Starr, and his three great grandchildren: Brady, Logan, and Cameron Weed. His brother Sigurd Odegaard of Ballard, WA and his sister Synnove of Mysen, Norway. Cousin Tulla Dilling of Moses Lake and her four children Marta, Harald, Lars, and Erik.

He is preceded in death by his brothers Johannes Odegaard of Rodenes, Norway, and Alf Odegaard of Oslo, Norway.

A Memorial service is scheduled for Saturday March 25th at 1 pm, at Living Word Lutheran Church in Moses Lake. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Block 40 Scholarship Fund. Special thanks to Assured Hospice, and all friends and family for your support. Please sign the online guestbook or leave a note for the family at www.kayserschapel.com Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel & Crematory.

Previous Events

Service

MAR **25**. 1:00 PM (PT)

Living Word Lutheran Church
2609 W. Broadway Avenue
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall



“ *Gregory Cochran & Family lit a candle in memory of Olaf Odegaard*



Gregory Cochran & Family - May 21, 2017 at 09:23 PM

AP

“ *Dear Grethe and family,
My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May your fond memories help you as time goes on.
I remember Olaf when we were on the Grant County Agriculture Coalition together. He was a very friendly and always a very respectful man. God now has a great man in His heaven.
May God Bless you all.
Alice Parker*

Alice Parker - March 27, 2017 at 02:28 PM

VS

“ *To the odegaard family, sorry to hear of his passing, Olaf was a hardworking farmer and a well respected man, our thoughts and prayers are with you all. The Sandmann family*

vern sandmann - March 25, 2017 at 04:28 PM

SN

“ *Jeg er trist over Olaf sin død. Olaf var min fars onkel. Jeg var heldig å møte han på sine besøk i Norge. Den siste gangen han var her i 2013 inviterte han meg til familiegården i Moses Lake. Jeg tok han på ordet og kom på besøk i fem uker året etter. Olaf viste meg sitt Amerika og jeg føler meg velsignet over å få bli kjent med en så fantastisk mann. Jeg kom på nytt besøk i 2015 og tilbragte syv uker på gården i Moses Lake. Jeg kommer til å savne spesielt hans interesse for oss i Norge og alle spørsmålene jeg fikk om Norge når jeg snakket med han. Klokken 10-kaffen rundt kjøkkenborde på gården savner jeg også. Takk for at jeg fikk bli kjent med Olaf. Takk for alt! Hvil i fred.*

(Bildet er fra mitt første besøk på gården i Moses Lake)

Simen Nicolaisen



Simen Nicolaisen - March 24, 2017 at 05:34 PM

CK

“ *To the Odegaard family; We are so sorry to hear the loss of Olaf. The Kersey family moved to the Stratford area to farm around 1957, and had the privilege of having Odegaard's & Dillings as their neighbors. Olaf had a gentle spirit, determination and strength, which was a gift to others. How do you say Goodbye to a man who led his family with dignity & love for so many years? It is impossible. It is never goodbye, simply see you soon!! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Cathy & Paul Kersey*

Cathy Kersey - March 24, 2017 at 11:49 AM

ES

“ *Elvis & June Swisher lit a candle in memory of Olaf Odegaard*



Elvis & June Swisher - March 23, 2017 at 09:49 PM

CC

“ *My condolence to all the family and friends.*

From all of us at Central Machinery.

Carl Carbon

Carl Carbon - March 22, 2017 at 02:39 PM

GH

“ *Olaf was a special man. Jerry and I can remember so many fun times we shared, as a young married couple , with Olaf and Grethe, the Rapps, the Dillings, the Halyes, the Hendersons and the Gauntts. We had card games and dinners together. They were all hard working, moral and ethical people that we admired and tried to follow their example.*

We are so thankful to Olaf and all of our wonderful neighbors that helped to shape our lives.

*We will miss our dear friend. Rest in peace dear friend. Lovingly,
Jerry and Gayle*

Gayle and Jerry Hendrickson - March 21, 2017 at 06:43 PM

JN

“ After moving to Moses Lake from North Dakota, a group of Norwegian's took the time to welcome me. It made Moses Lake feel like home. Olaf was a kind and caring person. He not only welcomed you, but he took the time to know you like family. He will be missed. I am thankful that he was a part of my life. I enjoyed his life stories about his family and many travels.
Janet Needham

Janet K Needham - March 21, 2017 at 12:28 PM

KS

“ Our dear friend and neighbor, Olaf, was probably the first person to welcome us to Block 40 almost eighteen years ago. He stopped at our house and introduced himself. When he found out that my family was of Norwegian heritage, he went home and quickly returned with applications to join Sons of Norway. My husband told him that he wasn't Norwegian, but Olaf assured him "That's okay, you're married to a Norwegian! You can still join!" Olaf, you will be missed so much. ❤️

Karen Schafer - March 20, 2017 at 09:05 PM



“ My uncle Olaf was a one-of-a-kind man, his door was always open which many people can attest to. I have many fond memories of Olaf and Block 40 will not be the same without him.

Marta Dilling Brobjer - March 20, 2017 at 10:11 AM

LO

“ *Olaf was a wonderful father in-law and will be greatly missed. Love that guy.* ”



Laurie Odegaard - March 19, 2017 at 10:48 PM

WL

“ *Wendy & Lane lit a candle in memory of Olaf Odegaard* ”



Wendy & Lane - March 18, 2017 at 11:46 AM