



# Charter Township of Orion

Oakland County, Michigan

## Proclamation

**Niles E. Olson**

*By the Supervisor of the Charter Township of Orion*

**Whereas**, Niles Edward Olson was born on December 26, 1938 in Pontiac, Michigan. The fourth of five sons and one daughter born to Ano Harold Olson, Niles and his siblings (Ano, Robert, William, George, Sharron) lived a short time in Pontiac and then moved to Orion Township where they worked a small family farm supplying local restaurants with fresh meat and produce; and

**Whereas**, Niles attended Webber Elementary School and Lake Orion High School where he excelled in football; earning varsity letters his freshman and sophomore years. He enlisted in the United States Air Force at 17 and completed his high school studies by attending night classes at Oxford University in England. He received his LOHS diploma upon his return from overseas early in 1960; and

**Whereas**, In August of 1960, he married his true love, Eleanor Gingell. During their 54 years of wedded bliss they had two daughters, Lori (Williams) and Lana (Seidel), and six grandchildren (Sam, Ericka, Joe, Tommy, John Paul, and Nicole); and

**Whereas**, A committed follower of Christ, deep thinker and passionate poet with a charismatic wit and entrepreneurial spirit, Niles ventured into many diverse jobs and hobbies throughout his well-lived life. He began his adult civilian life working for GM, first at Fisher Body, then as a foreman/supervisor at Central Foundry. He was elected and served for 10 years (5 consecutive terms) as Oakland County Commissioner and was also appointed to the Orion Township Board of Review for several years. Niles was appointed branch manager of a Secretary of State Licensing Bureau operating four offices for many years in several different Orion Township locations. He also owned and operated Olson Hardware, Olson Group which included many companies (roofing, snowplowing, landscaping, real estate broker, agent, and appraiser); and

**Whereas**, Niles enjoyed many hobbies. He crafted exquisite wooden pens, intricately carved wooden mirror frames, and other trinkets in his woodworking shop. He earned a "Master Gardener" certificate from MSU and was also a raspberry farmer and beekeeper for a time. He enjoyed treasure hunting with his metal detector at local sites and on distant shores; and

**Whereas**, In his spare time, Niles earned two college degrees: an Associate's degree in Law Enforcement from Oakland Community College and a BA in Political Science from Oakland University; and

**Whereas**, Niles E. Olson lived a full, fruitful, and fearless life. He lived simply and beautifully. He was a man of many talents, many deep thoughts expressed through poetry, and many friends, but first and foremost he was a loyal family man and Papa Extraordinaire.

**Now, Therefore**, I, Chris Barnett, Supervisor of the Charter Township of Orion, do hereby recognize Niles E. Olson for his outstanding contributions to the Orion Community and hereby proclaim July 21, 2014 as Niles E. Olson Day.

Chris Barnett, Supervisor  
Charter Township of Orion

*Issued July 21, 2014*