



Orrin "Tonsy" Foslien, Jr

March 22, 1942 - May 12, 2016

Orrin Alfred Foslien Jr. was born March 22, 1942, in Glenwood, Minnesota the son of Orrin and Dagmar (Johnson) Foslien Sr. He was baptized and confirmed at West Moe Lutheran Church in Moe Township. Orrin attended country grade school and graduated from Jefferson High School Class of 1960, furthered his education at NDSU, then moved to California where he started working in finance for the railroad. At night Orrin would "banjo his way to fame and glory", eventually taking his musical career fulltime. A Master Luthier and Craftsman, he later owned and operated Da Eastside Guitar Werks in Detroit, MI.

Some highlights in his musical career include: being the first banjo player on the Delta Queen River Boat as it traveled the Mississippi; meeting and playing for political nominations, etc. for Barry Goldwater, Ronald Reagan, and George W. Bush; playing a private party for Henry Ford's II birthday; jazz festivals in the U.S and Europe, and performing in Carnegie Hall. He founded the Flat Rock Society Orchestra and was a principal member of the Red Garter Band and the New McKinney's Cotton Pickers.

Orrin was united in marriage to Linda Joy from 1964 to 1975. To this union three children were born: Orrin III, Andrew, and Lauren. In 1981 he met Carol Robinett in Detroit, Michigan. "It was love at first sight" and they were married in 1984. The couple lived in Michigan until 1997 when they moved back to the family farm in Moe Township. One of the proudest days of his life was July 12, 2015 which the City of Alexandria proclaimed "Orrin Foslien Day". On that day

he also received the Excellence In Service Award from the National Association of Music Merchants.

Orrin will be remembered for his fun loving, caring, generous personality – especially to those in need. He never met a stranger and didn't hesitate to share his quick wit. He had a true love for Jesus Christ.

Orrin died on Thursday, May 12th, 2016, “at the farm in Moe Township” under hospice care, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife, Carol; sons: Orrin III (Janine), Andrew (Tammy); daughter, Lauren Ezelle; two grandchildren: Rachel (Matt) Baars, Madeleine Foslien; sister, Susan (Keith) Foslien McCoy, plus a large extended family and many, many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Anita.

Funeral service will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 11:00 a.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Garfield with Rev. David Gran officiating. Burial will be at West Moe Cemetery. Arrangements are with the Anderson Funeral Home. www.andersonfuneral.net

In Orrin's words: “Thank You God, AMEN”.

Cemetery Details

West Moe Cemetery

16633 County Road 8 NW
Brandon, MN 56315

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **16.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Anderson Funeral Home
659 Voyager
Alexandria, MN 56308
<http://andersonfuneral.net>

Visitation

MAY **17.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
201 Ida Street
Garfield, MN 56332

Funeral Service

MAY **17.** 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
201 Ida Street
Garfield, MN 56332

Tribute Wall



“ Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Orrin "Tonsy" Foslien, Jr



Anderson Funeral Home - May 23, 2016 at 08:46 AM

TD

“ My husband and I just heard today of Orin's journey home. What a guy! I have so many stories I could share. He was one amazing musician, he'd tell you that himself but my husband will confirm it. He once brought his banjo in and played it for patients at the hospital. He'd write songs, some pretty amazing, some maybe inappropriate... Today I remember the song he wrote me... "Get any on ya, Tonya?" Ha! Every single Valentine's Day all the ladies on the unit got a rose. He was a charmer. Oh gosh and when he used duct tape on his truck because he was so impressed that it came in a chrome color. Carol, our heart pours out to you. God bless you Orin ... I just know you have your banjo, guitar playing fingers back and I look forward to attending one of your jam sessions when I'm called home. Our deepest sympathy.

Tonya & Bryan Danielson - June 01, 2016 at 09:02 PM

TC

“ just a note to say thank you for the good time at the red garter sfo. sorry we didnt get up to see u before u said hello to GOD. im sure u had a wonderful life in minnesota. love tom & cynthia coughlin p.s hope u enjoyed the dependents cruise on the big E.

tom & cynthia coughlin - May 16, 2016 at 04:41 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Orrin "Tonsy" Foslien, Jr.



May 16, 2016 at 02:47 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Orrin "Tonsy" Foslien, Jr.



May 15, 2016 at 07:57 PM

FW

“ FOSLIEN Family -

*May these few words
express my sincere sympathy
to you and your family
at the loss of your loved one.*

*I knew TONSY and his sister ANITA
from Central High School in Alexandria.
I graduated with ANITA in 1958.*

*My Dad KENNETH and I were members of the
RUSIC MALE CHORUS along with ORRIN SR
back in the day. I remember his Mom DAGMAR
as being one heck of an ACCORDIAN PLAYER.*

*The BRUNDELL family enjoyed many a weekend
at the FOSLIEN lake home.*

*FRANK BRUNDELL
SPOKANE, WA.*

Frank Brundell Spokane, WA. - May 13, 2016 at 05:42 PM