

Joe Dean Miller

December 29, 1927 - October 25, 2020

Joe D. Miller was born at home in Hoopeston, Illinois on December 29, 1927; the only child of Oakley and Ruby Forrest Miller. He grew up in Hoopeston, a beautiful farming community located in Northeastern Illinois. It was here he developed a strong work ethic by pig tailing his parents as they operated their dairy, poultry, hog, and produce businesses. Life was tough in those post-depression years, and when he was five years old, his dad lost his job with the railroad. It was then they purchased their first dairy cow and began their journey into dairy farming. As a young child he would get up with his dad about 4 to 5 a.m. every morning to milk cows, and then deliver milk, cream, butter, and cottage cheese to their customers. At the end of the school day, he headed home once again to milk cows. Adding to this responsibility, his parents branched out into raising chickens, hogs, and selling vegetables from their gardens. They worked 365 days a year with no vacations for many, many years.

The entrepreneurial spirit was deeply ingrained in him. Even as a child he would make slingshots and kites to barter or sell. Despite the hardships, he often reminisced about his childhood in a longing and happy way.

His faith and relationship with Christ was established at an early age when he and his parents were members of the First Baptist Church in Hoopeston. This foundation supported him and gave him strength throughout life's ups and

downs.

In 1945, Joe graduated from John Greer High School, and afterwards joined the Illinois National Guard. Upon completing that commitment, he returned to Hoopeston to work in the retail business. Drafted by the Army during the Korean War, he arrived in the night on a troop train in Newburg. While stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Joe met the love of his life, Lois Cross, on a dance floor. Their shared love of ballroom dancing, faith, very similar childhoods, and even the same middle name, led them to marry February 14, 1953 at Bray' s Advent Christian Church in Iberia. To this union were born four daughters and a life-long commitment of support and devotion to each other and family.

In 1954, Joe transitioned from military life to civilian life by selling insurance. In 1960, he obtained a broker's license to sell real estate and began Miller Realty. Downtown Waynesville was the location of his office, his "second" home, and he maintained an active presence there until his death. He loved his work, and people, never meeting a stranger. The key to success in life was to treat everyone the way you would like to be treated he would often say.

Joe and Lois were active members of First Baptist Church in Waynesville in the 1950's until they decided to join a mission church in West Waynesville, now known as Westside Baptist. Joe was an active member and usher there until health issues forced him to step back. Every Sunday morning and evening, and Wednesday night, he would be there helping wherever he was needed.

Joe loved the Waynesville-St. Robert Area, and supported the community as a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Committee of 50, American Legion, Shriners, Masonic Lodge, President of PTA, Pulaski County Board of Realtors, Baptist Camp Board Member and President, Lions Club member and was a

charter member of First State Bank.

Joe loved his church, his work, visiting and telling stories of his past, and time spent with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He often stated, "If you have a loving family you are wealthy."

Joe is survived by his wife, Lois, daughters Sherye Sharp (husband Lynn), Judy Miller Redmond, Mary Miller, Nancy Berry (husband Kevin}. Seven grandchildren: Christy Descovich (husband Chris), Lora Sharp, Rebecca Renee Guidry (husband Mike), Robert Ryan Redmond (wife Christy), Mary Catherine Miller, Katharine Moisan (husband Forrest), and Jennifer Berry. Joe is blessed with 10 great grandchildren, which are mostly girls. He would say, "I take care of Lois first, and then it is one woman at a time." Special mention is in order for his first cousin, Phil Sandidge (wife Bev) as he was like a brother to him.

When Daddy reminisced about his life, he said he had truly been favored by God to have a loving family and wonderful friends. He loved his family, friends, vanilla lattes, and living in Waynesville. Joe will be sadly missed by all that knew him. Our loss is heaven's gain and Daddy's reward.

Keep in touch, Daddy. We love you so much and we'll see you later!

Graveside services with military honors were held on Saturday, November 14, 2020 in the Waynesville Memorial Park Cemetery of Waynesville with Pastor Bill Dudley and Pastor Lindell Shelden officiating. Becky Lercher sang "How Great Thou Art" and "In the Garden". Serving as escorts were Lynn Sharp, Ryan Redmond, Danny Graves, Lyle Cox, Kevin Berry, and Joe Hunter. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

Memorial Contributions in memory of Joe Miller can be made to the Westside Baptist Church, and contributions can be left at the funeral home.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **14**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Westside Baptist Church
801 Historic 66 West
Waynesville, MO

Tribute Wall



“ *Joe Dean Miller*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *Bill and I enjoyed many good visits with Joe at church. We respected and appreciated his dedication to serving the Lord and His church. We also enjoyed his humor in conversations. We have already missed seeing him weekly, but know he was also dedicated to caring for you, Lois. He was an inspiration to us and will always have a place in our hearts. We are sorry for your loss, but he is receiving his reward and enjoying being in the presence of his Lord now. May our Lord comfort and sustain you and your family through this difficult time. We were in quarantine for Covid 19 ourselves when the service for Joe took place. Sorry we missed it.*



Annette Morrison Catts - December 05, 2020 at 12:26 AM



“ *Joe Miller also had a ready smile for everyone. When I think of a gentleman, I think of his calm style of leadership. His contributions to this community will be ever lasting. His presence will be missed.*

--Marianne Ward

Marianne Ward - November 14, 2020 at 01:07 PM

CG

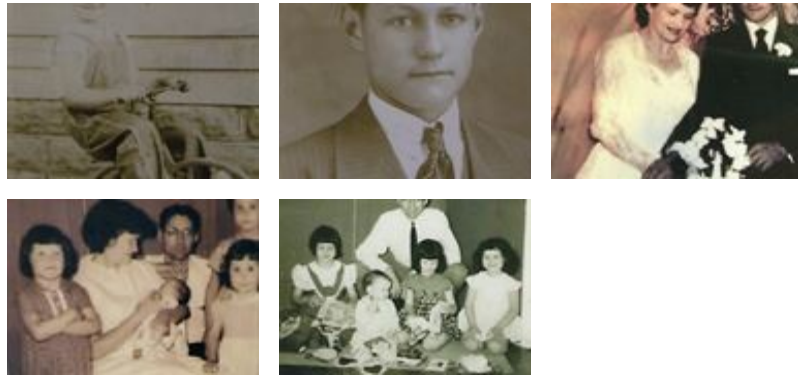
“ *Sending love and condolences. Mr Miller was a wonderful man loved and respected by all who knew him. The world was a better and kinder place because of him.* ”



Cindy Grizzell - November 13, 2020 at 09:33 PM



“ 21 files added to the album Life Tributes ”



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - November 13, 2020 at 08:47 AM

CD

“ *A true gentleman and great citizen in every way!!* ”



Cornelia & Robert Dodds - November 10, 2020 at 06:54 PM

JT

“ *Joanne Monda Tyra lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller*



Joanne Monda Tyra - November 09, 2020 at 10:12 PM

RW

“ *So sorry to hear of mr millers passing,Mr miller was one of the nicest people in Waynesville that I can remember ,as I was growing up .praying for family*

Ronnie wilson - November 09, 2020 at 02:05 PM

AM

“ *Alias Mullican lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller*



Alias mullican - November 09, 2020 at 01:19 PM

CE

“ *Cindy Shelden Emory lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller*



Cindy Shelden Emory - November 09, 2020 at 12:10 PM

SC

“ Susan Chudomelka lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller



Susan Chudomelka - November 09, 2020 at 11:39 AM

SH

“ SUSAN J. HOOPER lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller



SUSAN J. HOOPER - November 08, 2020 at 09:21 PM

DD

“ David Dodds lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller



David Dodds - November 07, 2020 at 10:31 PM

MF

“ Martha J Ferrer lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller



Martha J Ferrer - November 07, 2020 at 12:19 AM

SL

“ Judy & Mary and families, our heartfelt condolences from the Lord Family. Mr Miller.....,What an honor it was for us to get to know your girls dad 25 yrs ago. He always had a story to tell, mostly bout his childhood and bringing up. It was a great time for Jim to work in your office and have such a wise man right there. I will always treasure his kindness and patients he had with our children and how often he would ask bout the well being of my parents in Germany. Him growing up on a dairy farm, similar to my parents made conversation really interesting. We will cherish the memories and praying for you both to be comforted in these days of great loss. May God be with you and be your strength now and always!
Jim&Susanne Lord

susanne lord - November 04, 2020 at 06:00 PM


Marianna
Gurley

“ *Marianna Gurley lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller*



Marianna Gurley - November 04, 2020 at 05:14 PM

BM

“ *Bill Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller*



Bill Mitchell - November 03, 2020 at 08:48 PM

CL

“ Judy and family, we were so saddened to hear of your father's passing. My father, Fred Southard , has many happy memories of Joe, and the crew in the office. I wish I could bring him up there. but he is blind and unable to walk. Please accept our condolences.

Carole Southard (Ayres) Long - November 02, 2020 at 02:49 PM

SK

“ Sharon Green And Kylee lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller



Sharon Green and Kylee - November 02, 2020 at 11:22 AM

GW

“ George & Linda Wheeler lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller



George & Linda Wheeler - October 31, 2020 at 03:18 PM

MS

“ Marge Scott sent a virtual gift in memory of Joe Dean Miller



Marge Scott - October 31, 2020 at 12:00 PM

PC

“ Pamela Cox sent a virtual gift in memory of Joe Dean Miller



Pamela Cox - October 30, 2020 at 07:21 AM



“ Mary Haas lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller



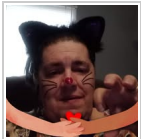
Mary Haas - October 29, 2020 at 08:30 PM

EB

“ Edward Bott lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller



Edward Bott - October 29, 2020 at 03:25 PM



“ Sorry to hear of your Dad's passing..May he Rest In Eternal Paradise...My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Miller family..May you find peace and strength in God, and each other.



Kat De Vido - October 29, 2020 at 02:23 PM

GM

“ *My prayers and thoughts are with the entire Miller family. Mr Joe Miller was a wonderful positive influence in my life. He and his wisdom will be missed.*

Gloria McBeth - October 29, 2020 at 09:59 AM

RW

“ *Prayers for family*

Ronnie Wilson - October 29, 2020 at 09:20 AM

CB

“ *CSM(Ret) Harold And Brigitte Burseson lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller*



CSM(Ret) Harold and Brigitte Burseson - October 29, 2020 at 09:09 AM

PG

“ *Pulaski County Camp Gideons sent a virtual gift in memory of Joe Dean Miller*



Pulaski County Camp Gideons - October 29, 2020 at 09:08 AM

NZ

*So sorry for your loss! Love and prayers to your family!
Nina Zechiel*

nina zechiel - October 30, 2020 at 08:37 AM

SD

“ *Sheila Debo lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller*



Sheila Debo - October 29, 2020 at 08:15 AM

GW

“ *George And Linda Wheeler lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller*



George and Linda Wheeler - October 28, 2020 at 09:32 PM

RH

“ *Robin Hobbs lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller*



Robin Hobbs - October 28, 2020 at 07:08 PM

MM

“ *Mary & Sisters you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Love you*



Michael & Crystal Mosier - October 28, 2020 at 04:37 PM

BD

“ Joe Miller was a great man. I became his and the family's pastor 52 years ago and Joe became not only a dedicated member of our congregation but a personal friend and supporter. I could tell several stories about our friendship but it enough to say he was a good man. For years he was *THE* usher at Westside Baptist in Waynesville and with his big hand it was a real handshake. I will miss Joe.

Bill Dudley - October 28, 2020 at 03:30 PM

PC

“ Pamela Cox sent a virtual gift in memory of Joe Dean Miller



Pamela Cox - October 28, 2020 at 03:08 PM

BW

“ He will always be remembered as a good family friend and a great family man.
Allen, Brenda Wood



Brenda Wood - October 28, 2020 at 02:10 PM

LW

“ Leanna Weathers lit a candle in memory of Joe Dean Miller



Leanna Weathers - October 28, 2020 at 02:06 PM

LU

“ *I loved and respected Joe. We will miss him.*

LugeHardman - October 28, 2020 at 01:23 PM

BD

“ *I remember in the late 50s Waynesville had a beard contest Joe won it and I will never forget he looked just like Abraham Lincoln he had the best beard I have ever seen*

bill davenport - October 28, 2020 at 11:41 AM