



## Joseph C. Miller Jr.

November 16, 1941 - July 12, 2020

Joseph C. Miller Jr., 78, died peacefully in his home on July 12, 2020 surrounded by family after a valiant battle with kidney cancer.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Marilyn Lowe Miller; his children Jennifer Miller of Los Angeles, CA, Stephanie (Ryan) McGowan of Denver, CO; his two grandchildren Jack and Annie; and his sister Eleanor Miller of Lakeville, CT.

Joe was born on November 16, 1941 in Philadelphia, PA to Ruth B. Miller and Joseph C Miller Sr. He was a graduate of Harrington High School of Lower Marion where he played varsity basketball and soccer and forged many lasting friendships. He graduated from West Virginia University in 1964 with a business degree, on a soccer scholarship, where he was an outstanding athlete and served as a ROTC officer. After college he served in Korea as a 1st Lieutenant Commander Officer for the Hawk Missile Battalion. Always a great Patriot, he valued the significance of service to his country. His professional business career included several leadership positions. He began his career at Republic Steel Corporation as a Sales and Marketing specialist in 1966. He served as President of Lowe's Inc, Inland Distributing and Whiteford Transportation Systems and Vice Chairman of Oil-Dri Corporation of America. In 2000 he semi-retired becoming an independent consultant specializing in Strategic Planning where he utilized his sharp intellect and

experience to mentor business leaders, giving guidance of how to transform and build companies. Joe continued his involvement in the business world by sitting on company boards up until his death. In addition to working with many companies, he also was a member of multiple not for profit boards in the community. One of his most rewarding was his 26 year commitment to the Saint Joseph Regional Hospital in South Bend, IN where he was Chairman of the Board for 6 years. During which time the Chapin Street Health Care Clinic, dedicated to serving the medically underserved, was founded by Sister Maura Brannick. Throughout his life Joe always had a sense of responsibility to his community's growth and enrichment.

If you were lucky enough to know Joe, you know how much he cherished his family and friends. He had a great passion for the game of golf. He treasured the camaraderie on the course with his friends and appreciated the challenge of the game. He was an avid sports fan, but especially loved supporting WVU and Notre Dame sports. It was always a tough choice of who to cheer for when they played each other.

Joe had a great sense of humor and a keen interest in history, travel, business and world affairs. He and his wife Marilyn spent time between homes in New Buffalo, MI and Bonita Springs, FL where they shared many good times with family and friends. Joe's influence of strong values and ethics, along with his supportive attitude and loving presence towards his family and friends marks his legacy.

A celebration of life will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be donated online to Sister Maura Brannick Health Center [www.sjmedgiving.com/donate](http://www.sjmedgiving.com/donate) (Designation:Sister Maura Brannick Health Center) or via mail to Sister Maura Brannick Health Center, 326 Chapin Street, South Bench IN 46601.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

**St. Joseph Valley Memorial Park**

Granger, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph C. Miller Jr.*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *We are so saddened to hear of Joe’s passing. Our love goes to you both. Joe as he is now at rest and in no pain and to you for your loss and the deep love and strength you have endured out of your love for Joe. Your memories will give you comfort and your family great support. We will think of you often and cherish the friendship we had shared. If you need anything we will be there. Love Bill and Connie Sandison.*

**connie Sandison** - July 20, 2020 at 02:52 PM



“ *I went to Harriton High School class 62, I played both basketball ball and soccer with Joe for Coach Fleming and the famous Doc Copeland. I have many fond memories of Joe and am sorry I didn.t know he lived in SW Florida as I am in Naples and would have loved to see him again. My memories are of a great athlete and class guy, hopefully you r memories will ease your grief*

*Michael Kirschner*

**Michael Kirschner** - July 20, 2020 at 07:59 AM



“ *Joe had a huge impact on my early managerial development! He taught me to analyze and execute! I continue to hear his words of wisdom during a tough period, “survive!” We did! A great leader! — Ron Whiteford II*

**Ron Whiteford II** - July 19, 2020 at 04:03 PM

DJ

“ My family first met Joe back in the 70's. Joe was a mountain of man in every way. A great husband, father, friend, mentor, and on and on. He became the Vice Chairman of our board the same year I took over the reins from my dad. He did an incredible job walking the tightrope between me and my dad and was instrumental in helping us not only turn the business around but also in avoiding the father / son land mines that derail so many family businesses. I cannot say enough about Joe. His integrity, business acumen, loyalty and competitiveness combined to make him an incredible mentor. He will be missed but never forgotten. Love always, Dan Jaffee

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**Dan Jaffee** - July 19, 2020 at 10:03 AM

DC

“ Dear Marilyn.....

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you today as we remember the good times we shared in the few short years we have known you and Joe. Joe had that strong warmth and compassion that made you feel like you had known and loved him forever. We will miss him dearly.....*

*Dave and Dina*

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**Dave Clifford** - July 19, 2020 at 06:35 AM

RS

“ Marilyn, We are so saddened, Joe was such a wonderful person. Nancy and I send our deepest sympathies to you and the family. Stay well and safe. Love, Nancy and Rick Solum

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**Rick Solum** - July 17, 2020 at 05:19 PM

VS

“ Joe was a ‘mans man’ with a true spirit to deliver his point of view and was a giver throughout his life supporting his family and loving wife.

*I will miss him as a golf partner and friend*

*Vince Scola*

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**vincent scola** - July 15, 2020 at 02:24 PM

SH

“ Soccer matches at WVU and Delta Tau Delta fraternity living.

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**Spike Hickman** - July 15, 2020 at 12:30 PM

MO

“ I have so many Beautiful memories of my brother in law Joe .  
Love you! Marcia❤️



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**marcia oneill** - July 15, 2020 at 08:40 AM

SD

“ Dear Marilyn and Family,  
Jenny and I are so saddened to hear of Joe’s death. Although our life orbits didn’t often intersect both you and Joe have a special place in our hearts. We are warmed by memories of a weekend in Galena- a Ferlic golf outing. We had the pleasure of being roommates. Peace be with you and your family.

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**Steve Deane** - July 15, 2020 at 07:50 AM

  
Charles  
Miller

“ I named my son Joe Miller in part because Big Joe Miller was great! My dad, Scott loved seeing Joe in our neighborhood and always yelled out "Hey Big Joe"! I will forever miss him. God bless his soul.

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**Charles Miller** - July 15, 2020 at 12:58 AM



“ Stephanie, Ryan, Jack, and Annie-

*The Evans family offers their deepest condolences. We will keep you in our prayers and in our hearts during this difficult time. Try to remember all the laughs you shared with your dad and when you feel your greatest sorrow, bring them to mind*

*Love to all,  
The Evans*

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**Mindy Evans** - July 14, 2020 at 09:38 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joseph C. Miller Jr..*



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July 14, 2020 at 07:24 PM



“ *Dear Marilyn,  
Bob and I were saddened to learn of Joe's passing. Our last visit was at you home in New Buffalo or Union Pier. Not sure which town.  
We send you our love and prayers for you and your entire family  
Blessings,  
Anne and Bob Oswald*

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**Anne Oswald** - July 14, 2020 at 06:53 PM