



Donald A. Miller

December 19, 1924 - March 6, 2015

IN MEMORIAM

Donald (Don A.) Miller

Donald A. Miller died March 6, 2015. He was born December 19, 1924, in Onamia, Minnesota, and grew up and went to school, partially on a farm near Wabasso, Minnesota, and partially in Minneapolis, Minnesota. When Pearl Harbor was bombed during World War II, December 7, 1941, he enlisted in the navy and was in combat until Germany surrendered. He always wanted to be a pilot, and at the end of the war he learned to fly. He did crop dusting until Northwest Airlines hired him, and he flew for them over 30 years. He flew through Europe, the U.S., and mostly throughout Asian countries. At age 60 the FAA required pilots to retire. Wenatchee was one of his stops when he first started flying for Northwest Airlines, and he admired Clyde Pangborn and copilot Hugh Herndon for their forty-one hour flight from Japan non-stop from Sabishiro beach near Misawa to Fancher Heights Airport. For that reason, Don moved to East Wenatchee, and he and a partner built houses. Except for flying, his most enjoyable work was when he was a Douglas County Planning Commissioner.

He is survived by son Randal Miller, his wife Christy Miller and their son Joseph Miller and their daughter Sharing Kanyer, her husband Samuel Kanyer and their son Shepherd; and by son Garner Miller, his wife Michaela and their sons, Maxwell and Luke.

Also by sister Lori Kenneally, her daughter Tricia Sudbeck and husband Steve

Sudbeck; her son Mike Kenneally and wife Cindy Kenneally. Also by his brother Eugene Miller, his wife Hilda Miller and their daughter Pamela White and husband Al White, and their daughter Gail Dyer and husband Larry Dyer. Also by the children of his brother Marvin Miller and his wife Mary Lou Miller, Marvin Miller, Mitchell Miller, Martin Miller, and Mary Lynn Miller-Olesen. Contact Garner Miller at 360-970-4412

Tribute Wall

“ I believe that Don's character was such that he was a mild mannered gentleman most of the time although he was by no means a "doormat" that would let people walk all over him.

That said, in the 80 plus years we were brothers there has been only two dis-agreements we have had. When we were teenagers, Mom left Lori in our care while she went shopping and told us not to let Lori have the sharp scissors. Wouldn't you know it, she got the scissors and started using them; I started to take them away from her, but Don said it was o.k. and we started struggling to get them away from her. As a result, Lori has a scar on her wrist to this day. Then we had a minor discussion on whether environment or heredity was the dominating factor in relationships. I took the former position and Don the latter. I don't think we ever got that resolved!

Our Dad, who seldom dreamed, woke up from a horrible nightmare shouting "Don's in trouble" over and over. He dreamed that Don was in the ocean and that his ship had been torpedoed. About 6 days later Don came home on leave with brand new uniforms, etc. We asked him why, he just shrugged and said it was time for new ones. At the end of his time in the Navy I helped unpack his duffle bag and found a case which held a medal of the Navy Cross. He would not tell us about why he received it. So one night I manipulated a beer drinking session....after awhile he reluctantly told the story. The night their Dad had the dream Don was at his post as a radar/sonar operator on a destroyer during a convoy duty across the Atlantic....he detected a U-boat attempting an attack on the convoy. Fortunately, he saved the convoy but his ship was destroyed. He survived, but lost his best friend that night.

The last time we got together was two years ago, when our sister arranged a reunion of the family. I shall always remember that time together....with all our reminiscing and the good times we had as kids. Don is in a better place now and I look forward to meeting him in Heaven.

With much love, your brother Gene

Gene Miller - March 23, 2015 at 12:36 PM

MO

“ *Though I never met Don's family, I want you to know how much he was loved and appreciated by those of us in the community who worshiped w/him, worked w/him in the local political life. What a gracious, loving man he was & I am assured I'll meet him again in Heaven. He is missed by all of us who cherished his friendship.*

Marion Holcomb Osborn - March 20, 2015 at 03:34 PM

MM

“ *So sorry.It has been so long since we were all at the lake together.I am Marv and MaryLou's daughter.*

Mary Lynn Miller-Olesen - March 17, 2015 at 12:28 PM

PW

“ *We were sad to learn of Uncle Don's passing. He was a very kind and gentle man. Our sympathies to all the family. Wish we cousins had more interaction with one another, but know you are close to our hearts at this time.*

Pam Miller White - March 17, 2015 at 11:16 AM

GM

“ *We will always have fond memories of our times together though infrequent ,were filled with joy and good times. Rest in peace dear brother until we meet again in Heaven!696*

Gene & Hilda Miller - March 16, 2015 at 09:31 PM

GD

“ We are so sad to hear of Uncle Don's passing. I am so thankful that Larry and I were able to spend time with Him at the Miller Mini Reunion back in August 2012. I haven't had much interaction with Him in my adult years, but I found him to be charming and so very interesting, telling us of his many experiences and travels. I have heard many great stories from my Father, Gene Miller, of there many escapades growing up in Minnesota. May he rest at peace in the loving arms of Jesus.

Gail Miller Dyer - March 16, 2015 at 09:06 PM

PW

“ *When I was a child I didn't have a lot of interaction with Uncle Don., but when I did there was great anticipation. He was like a illusive hero to me. He was one of the pilots for the new 747 planes! He was a world traveler, he was strong and handsome., and he was MY uncle! What young girl wouldn't look up to him?*

Our grandmother and grandfather had a sweet house, nestled in the woods on a lake in Minnesota. Every summer our family spent a week there, just enjoying our grandparents with good home cooked meals, outdoor nature scenes that we weren't used to seeing-living outside Chicago, swimming in the lake, going fishing for northern pike and various pan fish, playing cards, and just being together.

As a grade schooler, hearing that Uncle Don would be coming for a visit the same week we were there, was so exciting. When he arrived, he did not disappoint. He actually went swimming with my sister and I, and interacted with us. I remember him letting us hang on his arms as he circled with us in the water, making whirlpools around us. I can still see his handsome face with a huge smile on his face as my sister and I squealed in delight! What fun we had with Uncle Don there.

Another time when I was in high school our family looked forward to his visit at our humble little home in a suburb outside of Chicgo. I felt like we were expecting a celebrity. When the day finally arrived, he brought our family gifts that he picked up on his recent trip to Japan! He gave me a very modern alarm clock that enclosed itself in a black leather case. I treasured that gift for many, many years. To this day, I still treasure that gift.

He was a gentle and kind man and always very attentive to my sister and I. I know that death is part of life but he will still be missed.

Pam Miller White - March 16, 2015 at 08:37 AM

CS

“ *May Donald's loving family and friends find comfort from Jesus' words found at John 5:28, 29.*

Charles Schuttig - March 13, 2015 at 03:36 PM