



Melvin Joseph Miller

June 7, 1947 - July 9, 2013

Melvin Joseph "Mel" Miller, 66, a 24 year Wenatchee resident and former, longtime Postmaster, passed away in his home in Wenatchee on Tuesday, July 9, 2013.

He was born on June 7, 1947 in Saint Cloud, Minnesota to the late Walter Stanley and Regina C. "Rose" (Schlicting) Miller. He moved with his family to Tacoma as an infant and later attended Sacred Heart Elementary and Bellarmine Preparatory School. Following his graduation from high school, he continued his education at Tacoma Community College and later at City University of Seattle where he received a bachelor's degree in Public Administration. He married Susan Mary "Sue" Weaver on October 5, 1967. The two made their home together in Tacoma and Mel began his career as a letter carrier with the United States Postal Service.

On June 6, 1969, he entered the U.S. Army and served during the Vietnam War. He received his honorable discharge on February 6, 1972. Upon returning home to Tacoma, Mel resumed his work with the postal service and he and his wife started their family. Mel worked his way up to Station Manager at the Tacoma Post Office and in 1990 he was awarded the Postmaster position for the city of Wenatchee. In addition to managing the Wenatchee Post Office, Mel oversaw operations at the Mail Processing Plant. He retired from the United States Postal Service in 2010, ending 42 years of dedicated service.

A member of the Catholic Church, the retired Postmasters Union and the

Wenatchee Downtown Rotary Club, Mel was an active member of the community. He was especially passionate about his work with the Rotary International Youth Exchange Program. For 20 years, Mel served on local, district and international committees supporting many Wenatchee Valley, Central Washington, North Central Washington and Canadian students with opportunities to live and study abroad. Mel was a huge advocate for traveling young, learning foreign languages and experiencing new cultures. He particularly loved opening up his home to "inbound" exchange students and introducing them to American life through his family, the Millers.

Mel was a consummate family man and his children gave him great joy and pride. Above all, he was a devoted husband and he loved his wife deeply. He had many passions in life, but none greater than the Seattle Seahawks. Mel was an avid sports fan. He also loved playing golf, reading, spending time with his grandchildren, travelling, tending to his rose garden, and fishing the Beckler River. Mel especially enjoyed mowing his lawn on his riding mower and the family's annual summer vacation to the Oregon Coast. His frequent laughter and constant smile were dearly loved.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Susan M. Miller, Wenatchee and six children: Brian (Danielle) Miller, Wenatchee, twins Amelia (John) Fazio, Spokane and Adam Miller, Seattle, Elizabeth "Libby" (James) McLaughlin, Wenatchee, twins Megan Miller, Kennewick and Michael Miller, Seattle; six grandchildren; four brothers and sisters, Janet Miller, Walter (Janice) Miller, Teresa (Robert) Johnston and Eileen (Gary) Fortin, all of Tacoma. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Marilyn Garrison.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, July 19, at 10 AM at Holy Apostles Catholic Church in East Wenatchee. Friends who wish may make memorial donations in his name to Central Washington Hospital Home Health and Hospice. You are invited to visit his tribute online and leave a message for the family at www.HeritageMemorialChapel.com. Arrangements are in the care of Heritage Memorial Chapel, East Wenatchee.

Tribute Wall

RC

“ I first met Mel in 1992, while a Networks Specialist in Transportation. We developed a great relationship, while I administered Wenatchee's transportation. We continued our friendship when I was transferred to Tacoma, as the Mailpiece Design Specialist. A lovely, caring person who I greatly admired! I traveled to Wenatchee several times, working with his employees and customers. My last customer presentation before I retired was for Mel. Extending deep and heartfelt sympathy to family and friends.

Rae Crider - July 20, 2013 at 10:52 PM

HW

“ I met Mel at the Tacoma P&DC. He always had a smile on his face. He always took the time to help everyone. He had a great sense of humor and loved his laugh. He will be missed by all that knew him as he was a treasure to know. He had a lot of grace, loved his wife and his children. I had the opportunity to meet up with him about 2 years ago when I was on detail in Wenatchee with some other Postal employees to have lunch with him. I hadn't seen him in years. So sweet that he would take time out of his busy day to meet up with us. It was a great lunch just visiting with him. May you and your family remember the wonderful memories of a great person who was loved by all. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family at this sad time.

Heather Wilson - July 19, 2013 at 09:01 PM

AD

“ Thanks you for all the support before, during and after my exchange. you will always be missed and never forgotten.



Alexander Harrison DeRock - July 19, 2013 at 07:50 AM

JZ

“ Mel was a very special, thoughtful and helpful man. He taught me all about the ins and outs of becoming a Rotary Foreign Exchange student. I was chosen to go to Australia but a few months before my trip was about to commence they realized I would not be able to go there because of my age so I quickly had to choose another country. I was dying to go to Spain even though the 5060 Rotary club wasn't keen on it, Mel helped me get there. The experience changed my life as did he. His kind heart and smile will always inspire me and I will be grateful for the rest of my life for how he aided in molding my future. I went on to study Spanish in college, and I just finished 3 years in South and Central America teaching, volunteering and traveling - something I would have never done if he hadn't helped me go to Spain. Forever grateful and blessed to have known such a great man. With love - Nelly

Janelle (Nelly) Zukowski - July 18, 2013 at 01:24 PM

BB

“ Dear Sue, We are so sorry about Mel's passing. Our time growing up on Mckinley Hill are the best. Although we did not see you guys often, I thought of you both often. We won't be able to attend the funeral as we're out of town. My best to you and your family at this difficult time.
Always, Bill and Marilyn Bailey

Bill Bailey - July 17, 2013 at 10:52 PM

RN

“ I am deeply saddened by Mel's passing. I worked with Mel for many years in the Postal Service. He was not only very well respected as a Manager and Postmaster, but was also very popular with his peers and employees for his wonderful personality.

The world is a sadder place today. My deepest condolences to the family.

Robert Nelson - July 17, 2013 at 05:33 PM

DW

“ Sue and Family, Please accept my heartfelt condolences. Mel and your family have been such a special part of my life for the past 30 years, for so many different reasons. I am so glad I got to spend a little time with Mel during the Apple Blossom Festival...I hugged him so hard I didn't want to let go! He has been a float judge for over 20 years and we will all miss him very much! Mel was one of those truly gracious individuals who make life so much more pleasant for everyone around him. My deepest sympathy to you all, Darci Waterman

Darci Waterman - July 17, 2013 at 05:01 PM

BM

“ My memories of Mel are from high school years in Tacoma. To say he was a friend to to my older brother Harvey and my friend Bill would be to understate their relationship. Mel was equal part friend, brother, confidant and coconspirator to both. One repeated memory is simply Mel in his Chevy picking up Harvey and off they would go to what ever adventure awaited them on that day. I also remember Mel and Sue at my home for dinner. I had been discharged from active duty and return from Vietnam. Everything was different in my life but dinner with Mel and Sue was an unexpected blessing as I found that not everything had changed, Mel was still Mel, well actually a better Mel because he had Sue.
Love the smile Mel. Thoughts and prayers to Sue and family.

Bob McGowan - July 17, 2013 at 04:05 PM

GB

“ I knew Mel from the Tacoma Post Office. Mel was always such a pleasant, kind, funny person. I am glad to read, but not surprised, the Mel had such a full life. May God Bless the family with wonderful memories. I am so sorry for your loss.

Gloria Buck - July 16, 2013 at 07:19 PM

JC

“ Dear Sue
I am so sorry for your loss. Mel was such a great guy. I am so glad i had the chance to give him a big hug back in May. He still found a smile that day. His humor and laughter will never be forgotten. Keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers. No more pain, just joy and laughs for him now. Much love, Julie

Julie (Pitsch) Christianson - July 16, 2013 at 06:36 PM

LB

“ I met Mel Miller about twenty five years ago in Tacoma and found him to be a remarkable man. It was always a pleasure to see him at work and after he became postmaster of Wenatchee, I would look forward to seeing him when I worked there. He was just a wonderful man and I am quite sure everyone who met him felt the same. He loved his family and his faith so very much. He was one of the few "good guys". My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Linda Blanchfield - July 16, 2013 at 06:19 PM

BC

“ Dear Susan and family, I was so sad when I read today's paper and realized I was reading about your family. I haven't seen you in quite a while, but remember well working together and your wonderful children. I am so sorry...you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Barb Costanti - July 16, 2013 at 05:55 PM

BM

“ I was so sorry to hear of the passing of Mel. He was a young substitute letter carrier in Tacoma some years ago, and Bob Christofferson & I took him under our wing. He always said that we taught him everything he knew about the Post Office. Later when I became a National Officer of the Letter Carrier's union, it was always so great to hear from the carriers in Wenatchee that they really felt lucky to have a Postmaster like Mel was. I saw him last at the Letter Carrier convention in Wenatchee, where he spoke at the opening of the convention. He mentioned us by name as people that had guided him when he was just starting on his career . Please accept my sincere sympathy on your loss.

Bob Muntz - July 16, 2013 at 04:17 PM

CP

“ Mel will be sadly missed by all that knew him. He was a unique individual that was liked and respected by his Postal family. Working with and knowing him has been my honor and pleasure. I truly hope your happy memories of Mel provide some comfort during this sad time. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Chuck Peny - July 16, 2013 at 03:45 PM

BB

“ Mel always had a smile on his face whenever I saw him. He was just that kind of person. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing but know he is with family in Heaven. My deepest thoughts & prayers are with his family & friends.

Betty Boyd - July 16, 2013 at 03:32 PM

GM

“ Sending deepest sympathies to the family. I met Mel in the early 80's at the Gig Harbor Post Office. He had a way of making everyone feel like you had known him your whole life and was always so happy. The picture above is exactly how I remember him. I can only begin to imagine how much he will be missed by his family and friends.

Gayle Meadows - July 16, 2013 at 02:21 PM

LJ

“ We worked w/Mel at post office in Tacoma. Always smiling & friendly. He had such a kind soul & will be missed. Prayers & condolences to all his family & friends.

Linda & David Jorgenson - July 16, 2013 at 01:42 PM

ML

“ I have always considered Mel a dear friend. We had many adventures in high school and I will always remember his laugh. Jim Aquino and I played a fun round of golf with his some years ago and we always meant to return for a rematch. Both he and Sue were gracious hosts to us. I will always feel his loss - he was one of a kind. I will never forget dancing with him to "Mr Postman" at our ten year reunion. I am stunned at his passing.

Michael LaRock - July 16, 2013 at 01:40 PM

BT

“ I am truly saddened that Mel has passed away. Although I haven't seen him in over 30 years I have fond memories of Mel. He was one of the funniest people that I had ever met and we had alot of laughs. He was also a very kind man. Look at the impact that he left on me after not seeing him in so long. Bless his family and he is in heaven.
Bob Tibbits

Bob Tibbits - July 16, 2013 at 01:34 PM

HM

“ What a great picture! That is exactly how he should be remembered. Mel was a true friend and buddy through grade school, high school and beyond. So many memories of good times (and a few sad times) together. He was one of a kind: funny, endearing, caring and genuine. Our prayers go out to Sue and his family.

Harvey and Kathy McGowan - July 16, 2013 at 12:09 PM

JT

“ Susan...thinking of you and your family with love. Jeanie

Jeanie Elleflot Tackett - July 16, 2013 at 12:00 PM

PZ

“ Dear Miller Family:

We wanted you to know how Mel touched our lives so profoundly. It was when our daughter had the opportunity to travel abroad through the Rotary program. We were nervous parents in uncertain territory and on multiple occasions Mel went out of his way to speak and meet with us, ultimately reassuring us that our daughter was entering into an amazing life changing experience and he was so right. He was a warm, genuine, selfless and loving human being and he assisted us in our time of need and we remember him so fondly. May time heal your loss and peace come to all of you.

*God bless,
Phil, Donna and Janelle Zukowski*

Phil and Donna Zukowski - July 16, 2013 at 11:59 AM

JS

“ *Mel made all situations a happy and fun time. He was a family loving man. He served our country during a very difficult time. We all will miss his great smile and great heart. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sue and family.*

Joe&Patty Staeheli - July 16, 2013 at 11:58 AM

MB

“ *Libby, our thoughts are with your family. Hugs to all of you!*

Mike and Tina Brown - July 14, 2013 at 11:34 PM

JJ

“ *I worked with Mel at the post office and admired him.*

JIM JANNING - July 14, 2013 at 11:02 PM

CP

“ Dear Sue and family - we are so saddened with the loss of Mel, he is a very dear friend, we have so many wonderful memories of his friendship. He was an outstanding, loving man and we will miss him always. Love, Carole & Paul

Carole & Paul Paradis - July 13, 2013 at 05:51 PM

GH

“ Mel will be missed by all his second family at the USPS.

Gwendolyn Houck - July 12, 2013 at 10:39 PM