



James "Dick" Miller

July 26, 1940 - February 27, 2019

Dateline: Alton

J. Richard (Dick) Miller passed away peacefully on February 27, 2019 at his home in Alton at the age of 78. He was born on July 26, 1940 at Pana, Illinois to the late James Rex Miller and late Eunice Irene (Buzzard) of Beecher City, Illinois. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Deborah (Cornelius) Miller and three children, Thomas Miller (Shelley Monheiser) of Edwardsville, Illinois, Greg Miller (Meghan) of Clarendon Hills, Illinois, and Mark Miller (Ellen Jourdain) of Agoura Hills, California. There are 10 grandchildren: Madeline, Mallory, Mimi Kate, Grant, Charles, Elisabeth, Halle, Hannah, Bradley, and Clayton. He is also survived by two sisters, Sue (Jeff) Weber of Alton, Debbie Wohlert of Cocoa Beach, Florida, and one brother, Patrick (Meg) Miller, of Alton and many nieces and nephews.

Dick attended public school in the Alton area and graduated in 1958 from Alton High School, where he played football and baseball. He graduated from Culver Stockton College in Canton, Missouri with a degree in business in 1963. While at Culver Stockton, he was a member and president of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. After college, he worked at McDonnell-Douglas in St. Louis, and Quaker Oats in St. Louis before enlisting in the US Army in 1966. He attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and was on active duty from 1966 to 1968. After ending his active

duty requirements, he returned to Alton and began employment with Laclede Steel Company as a salesman for two years. It was during that time that he met the love of his life, Debbie, while living in Moline, Illinois. They were married June 27, 1970 in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

In 1970, he returned to Alton and with the help of Al and Jeff Weber, began the Marcal Rope and Rigging Company in Alton. He ran this business for the next 48 years and his remarkable work ethic contributed immensely to his success. During that time, the business grew to four locations in both Missouri and Illinois. He was very much involved in the business, and was a charter member of Associated Wire Rope Fabricators, which became an international organization. Dick was President of that organization for two years. He also President of AGC-Suppliers of St. Louis, another trade organization group.

While living in Alton, Dick was a member of a number of local organizations, including the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club, Lockhaven Country Club, where he served as President, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Piasa Masonic Lodge, the Shriners Organization of St. Louis, and the Alton Nature League. He was also on the board of the Alton Banking and Trust Company, First National Bank and Trust in Alton, and Mercantile Bank of St. Louis.

Dick was loved by everyone who knew him. He was always upbeat and positive about life, notwithstanding his own health issues and he was a role model for the rest of us on how to live our lives. He was loyal to his family, friends and business associates. He was considerate of others and despite his successes in life, he remained exceedingly humble. There are a lot of life-lessons to be gleaned from his life.

Visitation will be from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday, March 8, 2019 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 9, 2019 at the First Presbyterian Church in Alton with burial immediately following the service at the Fosterburg Cemetery in Fosterburg. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or the First Presbyterian Church in Alton. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Fosterburg Cemetery

Fosterburg, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 8. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services
2409 State Street
Alton, IL 62002
(618) 466-5544
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

Memorial Service

MAR 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
4th & Alby Streets
Alton, IL 62002

Tribute Wall



“ *James "Dick" Miller*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *James "Dick" Miller*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *As others have said, Dick was a true Gentleman and friend. Having known and worked with Dick in our Trade Association over the last 40 years, he was always upbeat, kind, generous and remembered to ask about your family. I considered him a mentor and friend and will miss his smiling face. May God Bless Debbie and all the family, you and Dick will be in our thoughts and prayers.*
Robert and Mary Bairstow

Robert Bairstow - March 10, 2019 at 05:18 PM



“ *Many years ago I worked at Wedge Bank and met Dick while working there. What a wonderful guy he was, as the obituary states always upbeat and never a negative word. I have lived in St. Louis for many years now but when ever I saw him in Alton he always remembered me. He became friends with my nephew Chris and would love to think they are laughing about something right now. Debbie, I'm sure you know you have lost a treasure but your memories will be forever in your souls. My sincere thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Mary Massey - March 08, 2019 at 02:35 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of James "Dick" Miller.*



March 08, 2019 at 10:02 AM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss, he will be greatly missed by all. Always such a happy guy.*

Bill and Linda Fitzgerald - March 08, 2019 at 09:45 AM



“ *Larry and I are out of town. So sorry to hear about Dick. We will all miss him. Dick was such a honest, kind , generous person. We will all miss that great smile of his. Our prayers and thought will be with the family. He will be sadly miss.
Larry snd Judy Thompson*

Judy and Larry Thompson - March 07, 2019 at 09:10 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James "Dick" Miller.*



March 07, 2019 at 05:20 PM

BC

“ *Deb, and boys, so sorry for your loss! He was a great man. Enjoyed the time I spent at your place working. He will be missed! May he Rest In Peace.*

Brian Camerer - March 06, 2019 at 01:03 AM

EJ

“ *I was saddened to read of the passing of Brother Miller, and my thoughts & prayers are with his family, friends and chapter brothers. While I did not have the privilege of meeting Dick, I pledge that the SigEp Patriots Project will always remember him, his life, and his patriotic service.*

Ed Jones - March 05, 2019 at 11:00 PM

TS

“ *Debbie and family. You are in our thoughts and prayers in your time of sorrow. We will always remember what great neighbors you were at the “Willows” and “Newport”.*
Tom & Teresa Stevens

Tom Stevens - March 05, 2019 at 06:07 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of James "Dick" Miller.*



March 05, 2019 at 11:36 AM

RD

“ When I first arrived in Alton in 1986, Dick became my mentor. He opened doors and introduced me to everyone like I was his son. Although I was in the Pasta House business, his thoughts and suggestions ring through to this day. I remember the handwritten notes and newspaper clippings he would send from time to time. Dick was one of the classiest and one of the greatest guys I have ever met. A gentleman's gentleman. God speed old friend. You will be dearly missed but your legacy will live on.

-Roland DeGregorio

Roland DeGregorio - March 05, 2019 at 11:20 AM

LW

“ I got to know Mr. Miller when I worked at Lockhaven Country Club and he was always such a gentleman and warm person, my thoughts are with the family.
Lexie Werner

Lexie Werner - March 05, 2019 at 11:12 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James "Dick" Miller.



March 05, 2019 at 10:48 AM

TM

“ Tony & Gale Mazzella purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of James "Dick" Miller.



Tony & Gale Mazzella - March 05, 2019 at 10:05 AM

RM

“ I was always impressed and admired with Dick Miller. A Gentleman in every way. Always a smile on his face. I will always remember his sincerity and thoughtfulness, sending me a card on my retirement. I will always remember this FINE man. My condolences go out to his lovely wife, Debbie and his entire family.

Bob Madden

Robert Madden - March 04, 2019 at 08:28 PM

JC

“ I am so very sorry for your loss, Debbie and family. You all will be in my thoughts and prayers. Judy Clark

Judy Clark - March 04, 2019 at 08:14 PM

WH

“ Dear Mrs. Miller and family,
Please accept our prayers and thoughts on your loss .
Dick was a true gentleman with a first rate mind and absolute integrity. As the obit said, he was always positive and courteous. He would send me notes and letters concerning state or federal policy or political issues quite often. I always responded because Dick wanted a discussion and my responses encouraged further notes and letters. His commentaries were always thought provoking. We saw him last at a Christmas party with Mrs. Miller and he was as gracious and positive as one would expect despite his cancer. May God bless him, his wife and wonderful family.
What a legacy: a loving husband, father, grandfather, patriot with service as an army officer, successful business executive and civic leader.
We regret very much that we will be unable to come to the his funeral because we will be in France.
With sympathy,
Senator Bill and Anna Haine

William and Anna Haine - March 04, 2019 at 08:05 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James "Dick" Miller.



March 04, 2019 at 07:38 PM

GD

“ Our sympathy and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.
George and Sue Depper

george depper - March 04, 2019 at 05:13 PM

GD

“ Darren called and informed us of his passing. Our prayers and sympathy to all in the family.
George and Susan Depper

george depper - March 04, 2019 at 05:08 PM

WH

“ With Love, Larry and Eileen Huels purchased the Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket for the family of James "Dick" Miller.



With Love, Larry and Eileen Huels - March 04, 2019 at 04:24 PM

ST

“ I am sorry to say that I had lost touch with Dick, having not spoken with him in a number of years. That was my loss. Dick was a true gentleman and I have fond memories of him. My sincere condolences to Debbie and all his family.

Stan Truitt - March 04, 2019 at 03:03 PM

PM

So sorry for your loss Debbie and family

Pam Maxeiner - March 05, 2019 at 10:30 PM

AJ

If I recall correctly we first met Dick and Debbie at a trade association meeting in French Lick IN. That began a friendship that has lasted more than forty years. We did some work and had a lot of fun at places like Destin, Hilton Head and Palm Springs. I spoke with Dick just before he passed away and he was his usual, upbeat self. We hope to share our loss with his wonderful family on Friday and Saturday.

Jack, Debbie Alexander and Family

Alexander Jack - March 06, 2019 at 10:05 AM