



Gary E. Miller

December 23, 1943 - May 29, 2015

Gary E. Miller passed away on Friday, May 29, 2015 in Rochester, Minnesota from complications of a lung infection. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 AM, Saturday, June 6, 2015 at All Saints Catholic Church, 650 N.E. 52 Ave in Des Moines. A visitation with family present will be 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM, Friday, June 5, 2015 at the church, with a 6:30 PM Prayer Service.

Gary was born on December 26, 1943 to Leslie (Pete) and Helen (Daniels) Miller in Greentop, Missouri. Gary grew up on the family farm with his parents and older brother. He attended Northeast Missouri State University earning a teaching degree and a Master's in education administration. He worked for the Des Moines Public Schools as a coach, teacher, and administrator for the district's driver education program, retiring in 2004 after 34 years. It would be safe to say that you can thank Gary for the thousands of good drivers in Des Moines. Everywhere he went someone was always coming up to him saying "Mr. Miller, I had you for Drivers Ed." As most young teachers do when first starting out and raising a young family, Gary was always looking for ways to supplement his income. This led him to going to craft shows selling his latest creation and to opening Tasty Twirl Ice Cream shop at Valley West Mall. While on vacation in Arizona he stumbled upon a wonderful treat called shaved ice and pitched the idea to the vendor committee at the Iowa State Fair. In 1988 shaved ice started in Iowa at the fairgrounds, and for the last 26 years that's where you would find Gary every August. He loved the fair, the people he met there, and all the girls who worked for him. All his daughters, his daughter-in-law and his granddaughters worked the booth. As one friend commented "God must have needed a shaved ice stand on the main concourse in heaven. Gary's sitting in the back taking a break on his lawn chair sipping an ice cold one. He will be missed."

Gary is survived by his wife Stephanie (Stegman) Miller; his four children, Marcia (Bill) Kelly, Michael (Toni) Miller, Monica (Pat) Farrell, Melinda Miller; grandchildren, Katie, Sarah, Grace, and Will Kelly; Myles and Mitchell Miller; Elijah Farrell; Lila and Olive Meyer; brother Ron (Lenora) Miller.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Animal Rescue League of Iowa, Pet-Project Midwest, DMARC Food Pantry, Hospice of Central Iowa or a charity of your choice.

Events

JUN **Visitation** 04:00PM - 06:30PM

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All Saints Catholic Church

650 NE 52nd Ave., Des Moines, IA, US

JUN **Prayer Service** 06:30PM - 07:00PM

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All Saints Catholic Church

650 NE 52nd Ave., Des Moines, IA, US

JUN **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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All Saints Catholic Church

650 NE 52nd Ave., Des Moines, IA, US

Comments



“ Gary played in our tennis group at Aspen Athletic for several years. Always had a smile before, during and after the matches. Great guy. Many of us knew Gary through our connections to the Des Moines Public Schools where he was an outstanding educator and coach.

Terry Eaton

Terry Eaton - June 04, 2015 at 01:46 PM



“ Had Mr. Miller for Drivers Ed at Hoover. My "car" teacher. He had me and my two fellow drivers go to Dairy Queen on Ingersoll and bought us all banana splits. He was a great guy. So sorry for your loss.

liz - June 03, 2015 at 07:43 PM



“ I have great memories of Mr. Miller as a fun Driver's Ed Teacher, a caring basketball and track coach and as a friend to say to every year at the Iowa State Fair. I took my kids to get shaved Ice and to say hi to "my old coach and Driver's ed teacher from high school at Roosevelt." Good bye Mr. Miller. Rest in peace!
Debbie James-Brown

Debbie James-Brown - June 03, 2015 at 04:15 PM



“ I had Mr. Miller for Drivers Ed at Hoover back in the late 70's....I am so sorry to hear of his passing. I have never forgotten him as a wonderful teacher.

Betty - June 03, 2015 at 03:42 PM



“ My dad, Bob Leonard, was not only a friend of Gary's but a fellow driver's ed instructor. I had Gary as a car instructor at Roosevelt High School. I will let dad know and see if he remembers Gary. Doug Leonard

Doug - June 03, 2015 at 01:50 PM



“ Debra Ott lit a candle in memory of Gary E. Miller



Debra Ott - June 03, 2015 at 10:02 AM



“ Stephanie-I am sorry for your loss of a good man. I will pray for his soul and strength for you in your time of need. When we walk in the Light,we won't stumble in the darkness. Peace be with you Stephanie. Kindly,Bobby Walter.

Bobby walter - June 03, 2015 at 08:08 AM