



# William Emil Miller

NOV 23, 1941 - AUG 3, 2015



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## **William Emil Miller**

NOV 23, 1941 - AUG 3, 2015

**C**ol. William Emil Miller, Jr., a decorated Vietnam Army helicopter pilot, lost his battle with cancer on August 3, 2015. He was 73.

Born in Baltimore, MD, he attended Towson High and the University of Baltimore. He met his wife of 50 years, Barbara, in Towson. Married in 1964, he left on his first tour of duty in Vietnam early in 1966 and returned for a second tour in 1968. It was there he earned two distinguished flying crosses and two bronze stars, along with numerous other medals and awards.

He returned home as an instructor pilot, flying helicopters and fixed wing airplanes at Triangle Airways in Laurel, MD. He had the pleasure of flying Bob Dylan and Santa Claus to their destinations.

Bill earned his Bachelor's degree from Columbia College and completed both Command & General Staff officer's training and US Army War College. He steadily climbed the ranks of the military in the Active Reserve, stationed at Ft. Meade, Maryland until his last posting as Deputy Assistant Commandant at Ft. Rucker, Alabama. Appropriately, the two Huey choppers he flew in Vietnam now flank the gates at Ft. Rucker. He retired as a Colonel in 1994 and moved to Delaware.

After retirement, he worked for Boeing as a consultant. He also served as the Building Official in Dewey Beach from 1996 to 2001. Then, pursuing his passion for construction and remodeling, he spent time designing kitchens, including both daughters' and his own.

Bill was blessed with the ability to fix anything and enjoyed old cars and old boats. He restored a 1929 Ford Model A, a 1964½ Mustang convertible, and his latest project was his sailboat Vigilant, which the Millers enjoyed sailing off the shores of Lewes, where they lived for 22 years.

Bill and Barbara traveled extensively, visiting Egypt, China, England, Germany, France, and Italy. They also enjoyed excursions to Hawaii, Alaska, and the Caribbean.



## Obituary

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In addition to his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his sister, Elizabeth Miller Stevens. He is survived by his wife Barbara, and two daughters, Kimberly Miller of West Palm Beach, FL and Karen Miller of Baltimore, MD, and one grandson, Lucas. He is also survived by brothers John Miller and Charles Miller, both of Roswell, GA and sister Janet Denbow of Freeland, MD.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11AM Monday, August 10, 2015 at Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, where friends may visit beginning at 10 AM. Interment will be private.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Greenebaum Cancer Center. Checks should be made payable to the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc. (UMBF, Inc.) and sent to the School of Medicine Office of Development at 31 S. Greene St., 3rd Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Please sign Mr. Miller's guestbook at this site.

[PDF Printable Version](#)



## Tribute Wall

**William Emil Miller**

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JM

**Jackie Mcklveen** posted:

Prayers.

August 9 at 8:00 PM

MM

**Mary And Marlene Miller** posted:

To Mrs Barbra Miller, Kim, Karen and Luke. Many blessings to each one of you! Dear Bill as one of the nicest person on Earth! When you talk to him, he would always answer with kind words! We will always remember him as a Hero! Love always Mary and Marlene Miller

August 9 at 8:00 PM

ML

**Margaret Milller And Rob Laura** posted:

Kim, I am so sorry for your loss. I remember as a kid thinking how cool your father was; he could fly a helicopter and defend our country at the same time. I have fond memories of your Dad; like my Dad, he was always tinkering with something. We have great Brightwood memories with your Dad being a big part of it, pool parties, crab feasts, camping, softball in the rec area, picnics, roasting marshmallows, snowballs, and lots of laughs. Barbara and Karen, please know that I am thinking of you during this difficult time too. Rob and I are sending you our love and keeping you close to our hearts. We love you Kim, as your father's spirit lives through you and Luke. With sympathy, Margaret Miller and Rob Laura

August 7 at 8:00 PM

RF

**Richard Frazer** posted:

Received the sad news from Janice Krach, Towson Class of 1959. Did not know that William, also class of '59, had settled in my hometown of Lewes, Delaware. My family is spending this week at 1108 Bay Avenue on the beach.

August 7 at 8:00 PM

SS

**Sandy Stevens** posted:

Dear Aunt Barbara, Kim and Karen, It has been too many years since I last saw you all, but I have warm memories of childhood times playing with my cousins, and listening to our parents reminisce and laugh together. I miss that. Just know that you are in my thoughts. Love, sandy

August 7 at 8:00 PM



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BP

**Bob And Marion Ponton** posted:

Dear Barbara, Kim and Karen, It is so seldom that one meets someone new and has an instant connection. This happened to us in our relationship with you and Bill. What a great guy he was. We respected him highly, as Bob often referred to him as 'Colonel', a true American hero. We will surely miss him in remembering all the fun activities we had together. Our love goes out to you Barbara, and your daughters and grandson. You are constantly in our prayers along with Bill, who is with the Angels. God bless you and your family. Bob and Marion Ponton

August 6 at 8:00 PM

KN

**Karen And Don Newman** posted:

With heavy hearts, we offer our condolences to you and the girls. Bill helped me on more than one occasion in my Army Career. He was a great man and will be missed within the Aviation Community. Don and Karen Newman

August 6 at 8:00 PM

EO

**Eric And Dorothy Van Opstal** posted:

Our deepest sympathy and condolence to Barbara and family. Many years have passed since Bill and I were cohorts at the then budding Reserve Flight Facility at Ft Meade. I am left with fond memories of our time together, and also with regrets that we let so many years pass in between us. My life was richer knowing Bill. My Brother in arms, rest in peace now for you have served so well.

August 6 at 8:00 PM

JD

**Janet Miller Denbow** posted:

I am thankful for a lifetime of memories of my beloved brother. Miss you. Love you. Sympathy and love to Barbara, Kim, Karen and Lucas, the loves of his life. Janet

August 6 at 8:00 PM

PM

**Pat Maroney** posted:

Sorry to hear about Bill's passing, he was a very kind and honest man that looked out for the best interest of the little guy not himself. He was the kind of leader that you would want to follow and trust him with your life if needed.

August 5 at 8:00 PM



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SF

**Salvatore E. Formica** posted:

May the Lord bless your family with consolation. Your ready smile will warm the hearts you leave behind. May the Lord Jesus bless you and in His mercy give you eternal life in that heavenly kingdom where He lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

August 5 at 8:00 PM

JE

**Jeanne** posted:

Col I have never met you but I appreciate all that you did. I love your quote "can't never did anything". Your daughter Kim is an exceptional friend. Glad to know her. May you rest in peace. The ones you left behind are secure in Jesus's care. Go rest high on that mountain Until we meet in Heaven

August 5 at 8:00 PM

JM

**Jen Michalski** posted:

I'm saddened to hear of Mr. Miller's passing. He was a gentle and funny man, and he volunteered so much of his time to help his daughters and his friends. He really could make worlds with his hands. I know he will be missed greatly, but I hope those who love him take solace in knowing he lived his life so fully, and so well. I'm sure Wheaties was so happy to see him again! Deepest condolences, Jen

August 5 at 8:00 PM

CL

**Csm (Ret) RI Long** posted:

One of the best officers I have had the privilege to serve with. Many fond memories of the Ft. Meade days. Would follow him into battle anytime.

August 5 at 8:00 PM

JB

**Jimmy Barnes** posted:

My wife and I had the privilege to meet Bill and Barbara when we moved to Lewes two years ago. I knew right away I found a friend in Lewes. In Life you meet people that are teachers, their actions speak volumes. Bill was one of them. His kindness, compassion, easy going manner always made me feel good. We are very grateful that our paths met. Our deepest condolences and Love to Barbara and Bills Family. Jim and Fran Barnes

August 4 at 8:00 PM



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SC

**Sally Cooper Crane** posted:

When you are in high school, you always have your favorites. Bill was one of mine. I'm glad to know that he had a good life. To his family - I am so very sorry for your loss. I'm sure he was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather.

August 4 at 8:00 PM

JN

**John And Patti Nagy** posted:

Our sincere condolences to Barbara and family. Bill was a great pilot, a gentleman, and all around good guy.

August 4 at 8:00 PM

SM

**Sgm Ret Raymond And Barbara Moran** posted:

Good bye old friend. You were a hero to us all. You will be missed and remembered.

August 4 at 8:00 PM

EW

**Edward G. Wenner Iii** posted:

Without a doubt one of the finest instructor pilots I had the privilege of flying with. I met Bill when I got off active duty and joined the Reserves flying out of ASF 85. My thoughts and prayers are with the family of this gentleman.

August 4 at 8:00 PM

DG

**Dr Matthew Ginalick** posted:

Bill and I spent many hours flying together at Fort Meade and talking about remodeling his home. Good man, God rest his soul.

August 4 at 8:00 PM

RS

**Rod Spicer** posted:

I was so sorry to hear about Bill. I found out via a network of old army aviators from Tipton Army airfield. Bill was one of the good guys. He will be missed.

August 4 at 8:00 PM



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PE

**Pete Effinger** posted:

My dearest friend, Bill, my hero, my brother in so many ways, rest now in everlasting peace. Thank you for a lifetime of memories together. Know that you will be missed, but held in my heart with love, always.

August 4 at 8:00 PM

BS

**Bernadette Smith** posted:

The smile on Bill's face is the same smile that I remember when he came to pick up Kim and Karen from their piano lessons. He always seemed to be an upbeat guy. You have my sincerest condolences. lday

August 4 at 8:00 PM

BW

**Bob (Rob) White** posted:

I well remember Bill from Towson High days. Living in Rehoboth Beach, it would have been nice to reconnect had I know he was in the area. I extend my sympathies to his family.

August 4 at 8:00 PM

BS

**Billy Smith** posted:

I am very sorry to hear this. I wasn't even aware he had been ill. Bill was one of the "guiding hands" who was instrumental in shaping me, not only as a military officer and pilot, but also as a man. I had lost touch with Bill some years ago, as often happens as folks grow, but I feel his loss as much as if it were my own father. Rest in peace Colonel Miller!!

August 4 at 8:00 PM

JK

**Janice A Krach** posted:

The class of 1959, Towson High School, extend sincere condolences to the family of our classmate Bill.

August 4 at 8:00 PM



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AT

**Army Reserve Ambassador Chuck Trombetta** posted:

To the Family of COL William E. Miller: On behalf of Lieutenant General Jeffery Talley, Chief, Army Reserve and the US Army Reserve Ambassador Corps, please accept our most sincere condolences on the passing of COL Miller. Those of us who remember him do so with great respect and admiration of a great Soldier and highly regarded and respected family man. May he rest in Peace in the Arms of the Lord. Chuck Trombetta Army Reserve Ambassador Emeritus to the Chief, Army Reserve

August 4 at 8:00 PM

IV

**Izy Veguilla** posted:

As a member of Tipton Army Airfield and an Alumni of the 31st Combat Aviation Group, I bid not farewell but until we meet again. You have now received another pair of wings. That's an even bigger honor to fly in heaven for God's aviation take care my friend.

August 4 at 8:00 PM

DL

**Diane Longazel** posted:

I have many fond memories of Bill from my time with the 97th ARCOM. My deepest sympathy. I will keep you all in my prayers.

August 4 at 8:00 PM

CC

**Charlene Cook** posted:

Karen, I'm so sorry for your loss, just know that you and your family are in my prayers. God bless Charlene

August 4 at 8:00 PM

RS

**Rich Stinger** posted:

Dear Barbara, Kim and Karen: Bill was a man of courage, compassion and understanding. He was generous with his time and possessed a great moral compass. You already know this, as he cared and loved you all dearly. May memories of Bill bring smiles to your faces. He would like that. Love, Billie and Rich

August 3 at 8:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring William by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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