



## Gregory A. Miller

July 3, 1944 - July 30, 2017

Gregory Alan Miller (73), forty-eight-year resident of Moses Lake, died Sunday July 30, 2017 at Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Washington surrounded by family. While fighting a courageous two-year battle with pancreatic cancer, Greg suffered a traumatic brain injury and succumbed to those injuries.

Greg was born to Kenneth Lee and Zella Olive (Anderson) Miller in Celina, Ohio on July 3, 1944. He was raised on a small farm and graduated from Celina High School in 1962. Greg was active in a variety of sports but excelled in baseball and basketball. He was also an active member of the Grand Lake Waterski Jump Club where he became an ace slalom and trick skier.

Greg went on to graduate from Ohio Northern University in 1966 where he was a member of Theta Chi fraternity. That same year Greg married Judith (Judy) Ann Brinkman. With their degrees in hand they went on to teach at Marion Local School District for three years in Maria Stein, Ohio, where Greg taught math, science and coached basketball.

In the fall of 1969 Greg and Judy packed their bags to see the country and, after visiting and interviewing in different states, decided to call Moses Lake home. For thirty years Greg dedicated his life to molding the minds of Moses Lake's youth. He taught at Chief Moses Junior High, Frontier Junior High and finished his career at Moses Lake High School. Besides teaching math, Greg coached, was the athletic ticket sales coordinator at the high school, and participated on many school district committees. He was well respected by

faculty and students, who all knew him as Mr. Miller. Greg retired from teaching in 2000 to his much-loved home on the shores of Moses Lake. Raised as a farm boy, Greg wanted his own kids to have the same country-living experiences. In 1975 he found a piece of land just beyond McConihe Flats and spent years turning it into what they now call home. With great pride, Greg, with the help of Judy and kids, toiled to make sure every board was perfect. Though this took several years, Greg never missed a detail, which can be seen in the home as well as in the trees and pastures he worked so hard to create.

Greg always felt a drive to serve his community and volunteer fire fighting fulfilled that desire. He was a dedicated fireman for 25 years for Grant County 5 (Company 10), fighting not only local fires and giving medical aid, but also many Northwest forest fires. This service created bonds of brotherhood that would last his life time. He was awarded Grant County 5 Firefighter of the Year in 2003. Greg's desire for community service also led him to be very active in his daughter's 4-H clubs, where he helped run the Grant County Western Games. He was always ready to lend a helping hand to his neighbors and friends, no matter the need.

One of Greg's favorite activities was riding horseback in the mountains with Amanda and friends. The Pasayten Wilderness was one of his favorite places to go. Being an avid outdoorsman, he also spent many hours with his son Jeff—freezing in a duck blind in winter, and slalom skiing or basking in the sun as they fished in summer. He wore out the soles of his boots as he, Jeff, and friends hunted and bagged deer and elk all around the state. Greg has always been a jack of all trades and learned how to forge his own knives, as well as flint knapping, creating more than just arrowheads, but works of art. Sitting around with friends as they chipped away at the rock gave plenty of opportunities to swap stories, which was one of his favorite past-times. Even though Greg was a man of many talents, he enjoyed mostly the simple things in life. No job was too important for him to stop what he was doing and visit with friends who came by. It was a common sight to see him with a cup of

coffee in one hand, dog by his side, enjoying spirited conversation and laughter with a good friend. He especially enjoyed visiting with many friends and family a few weeks ago at a gathering in honor of his 73rd birthday. His sense of humor and enjoyment of life were contagious.

Greg was preceded in death by his parents and his youngest son, Scott Randolph Miller. He is survived by his wife Judy of 51 years, daughter Amanda Jo Miller, and son Jeffrey Alan Miller. Also brother Milt Miller, sister Gwen Ley, nephew Milton Colby Miller, as well as several other nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, cousins, and many wonderful friends. The family would like to extend deep gratitude to those close friends and neighbors who supported and helped in so many ways these past few years as Greg, Judy, and Amanda faced all the cancer treatments, surgeries, hospitalizations, and travels to Seattle and Spokane. We are also grateful for the skilled and compassionate care he received from ambulance paramedics, Life Flight, Samaritan ER, Moses Lake Clinic, Assured Home Health, Virginia Mason, Sacred Heart, and St. Luke's Rehab.

A memorial service will be held at Moses Lake Presbyterian Church, 1142 West Ivy, Moses Lake, WA on Monday, August 7, 2017 at 2 PM. Sign online guestbook at [www.kayserschapel.com](http://www.kayserschapel.com). Arrangements are in care of Kayser's Chapel & Crematory.

# Previous Events

## Service

AUG 7. 2:00 PM (PT)

Moses Lake Presbyterian Church  
1142 W. Ivy  
Moses Lake, WA

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ I know this is months after Mr. Miller's death and you may not see this but I still am moved to send something, My mom saved his obituary from the Daily Standard and showed it to me, thinking I might have known him.. I definitely remember him. Yes, he was Mr. Miller to me also. He was my math teacher in 7th and 8th grade at Marion Local. I remember him as a good teacher; one you could have fun with but who still commanded respect. From the other messages, it sounds like he continued to inspire students throughout his career as he did me. I am sorry for your loss.

*Susan Fullenkamp Skorupski*

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**Susan Skorupski** - October 22, 2017 at 09:27 PM

SB

“ So sorry for your loss. I'm sure he will be truly missed

*Jerry and Sandy Braun*

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**sandy braun** - August 07, 2017 at 07:32 PM

JM

“ *Judy and Family,*

*I was saddened to hear of Greg's passing. I have fond memories of our days at Celina High School where we participated together in sports and other activities. They were truly the "good old days". I also remember after school visits to Greg's farm with other friends hunting rabbits and other youthful escapades.*

*Please pass on my condolences to Milt, Gwen and other family members. Please know that my thoughts are with you during this difficult time.*

*Jerry McKibben*

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**Jerry McKibben** - August 06, 2017 at 07:15 PM

SW

“ *So Sorry to hear of Greg's passing . It was announced at our 55th class reunion. I have fond memories of growing up in the First Church of God in Celina and all the things we did as kids. Please extend my sympathies to Judy and her family and to Milt and Gwen. Judy you wrote a wonderful tribute to your husband. God Bless Susan Stauffer Wolters.*

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**Susan Wolters** - August 06, 2017 at 05:47 AM

PK

“ *Judy, Jeff, and Amanda, I was so sad to hear about Greg. He was a great neighbor and an asset to the McConihie Valley. I remember the hay rides during Halloween, and all he did for the kids. Greg was always willing to help out with a difficult horse, lol. My heart goes out to all of you. We all had some fun times with the fire department. Prayers are with you all.*

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**pamela Kursave** - August 05, 2017 at 11:30 PM

CG

“ I remember when Greg and Judy first started their teaching careers at Marion Local. I think I was just a little Jr. High kid, but I thought they were the most handsome and beautiful couple I'd ever seen, and so did lots of other kids too! May you rest peacefully, and God bless.

*Cindy Thobe Grapner  
Celina, Ohio*

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**cindy thobe grapner** - August 05, 2017 at 05:44 PM

DV

“ Judy and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Greg was a wonderful man and will be missed by all who knew him. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Dawn Viebrock*

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**Dawn Viebrock** - August 05, 2017 at 01:42 AM

WG

“ So sorry for you loss. At times like these it is so good to know that our loved ones are resting in the arms of Jesus. Hold on to the memorie. They will always be precious.

*Wendy Gies*

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**Wendy Gies** - August 04, 2017 at 08:49 PM

MT

“ So sorry to learn of Gregs passing. We were class mates at Franklin elementary, Montezuma, and Celina high. What a full and exciting life you had, Blessings to your family.



Mollie Trisel - August 04, 2017 at 08:22 AM

JL

“ Such a beautiful obituary - what a full wonderful life he enjoyed!♥ I met & got to know Greg a little bit 9 years ago as we helped prepare chicken for a niece wedding, here in Ohio. My sincerest condolences to the family.

Janet Ley-Pike

Janet Ley-Pike - August 04, 2017 at 04:37 AM

DF

“ I'm sad to hear of Greg's passing. I met him and his family through his caring for Darlene Cox years ago. If she needed anything, she would call him and he was there to see what she needed. He was a true friend to her and I was grateful for that. My condolences to Judy and Amanda on losing a great husband and father. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time... RIP Greg.

Delores Fraga-Carvalho - August 03, 2017 at 11:34 PM

RR

“ So Sorry to hear Mr. Miller has passed away. I had him as my math teacher many many years ago at CMMS. I enjoyed him he was a very good teacher, and I'm so Sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. God bless you...RIP Mr.Miller



Roxanne (Sell ) Ronk - August 03, 2017 at 09:09 PM



“ *Mr. Miller was one of my most favorite teachers at Frontier Jr. High who left the biggest impact. I was both honored and blessed to see him the the day of his party. Thank you sir for all you did to make us better human beings. You leave big shoes to fill in all you did to make this world a better place, I only hope I am able to come even remotely close. You will be missed sir, thank you again for all the wonderful memories.*

Theresa Nevarez - August 03, 2017 at 06:07 PM



“ *Amanda So saddened to hear of your Dad's passing. Worked together with him from time to time when we were both with Grant County 5. A good man for sure.*  
Terry Anderson

Terry Anderson - August 03, 2017 at 05:02 PM



“ *Judy and family, Jerry and I are so sorry to hear about Greg. We have so many fond memories of him in Moses Lake and the times he came to Quartzsite, AZ with Kenny for our knap-in. I will always remember the time he took me horse back riding one summer in Moses Lake. I had such a good time. Greg was one fine human being and even though we haven't seen him in years he will always be a bright spot in our thoughts. We are so sorry for your loss and may the soft winds of heaven blow gently through your hearts with his memory.*

Mary Webster & Jerry Calvert - August 03, 2017 at 10:09 AM



*He was so cool what a good man*

James flores - August 03, 2017 at 07:41 PM

MF

*May care and love of those around you provide comfort and peace to get you through the days ahead. My most sincere condolences.*

**Makoto Enokizono & Family** - August 05, 2017 at 09:59 PM

JB

“ *Judy, I am so sorry to hear this! I so enjoyed getting to know Greg-- he was such a great guy, even while enduring everything he was going through. You will be in my thoughts and prayers ❤️*

**Jessica Barker** - August 02, 2017 at 11:48 PM



Stephen Austin

“ *Greg Miller, my first next door neighbor (1967-1970), and a long time colleague and friend of the MLSD family. I am glad that while you were here, you passed my way.*

*Stephen "Steve-a-rino" Austin*

**Stephen Austin** - August 02, 2017 at 11:37 PM

KG

“ *So sorry to hear of his passing. Always enjoyed visiting at the high school and shared many laughs. My condolences to the family.*

**Kim Green** - August 02, 2017 at 09:07 PM

MS

“ *Mr. Miller was my absolute favorite teacher. He is the one who helped me like math so much. He thought he got rid of me my freshman year in 96 at Frontier just to watch me walk in his classroom my sophomore year that fall at MLHS. The look on his face and his comment to me, I'll never forget. He was always a jokester. I'm deeply saddened for your family, and I send all my love, prayers, and well wishes. Mr. Miller will be missed by so many. I will remember him always.*

*With care,  
Mandy*

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**Mandy Smith** - August 02, 2017 at 07:30 PM

IH

*Mr. Miller taught me to love math. Loved his sense of humor and his passion for teaching. Always looked forward to attending his class. I'm going to miss you Mr. Miller. Rest In Peace maestro!!*

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**Ismael B Hernandez** - August 02, 2017 at 10:57 PM

JP

*We are so sorry to hear of passing of Greg. We really enjoyed our visit with him and Judy last year. Our deepest sympathy to his family.*

*Jerry and Mary Kay purdy*

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**Jerry Purdy** - August 04, 2017 at 05:09 AM

DK

*Judy, Amanda and Jeff - We are truly so sorry for your loss. Greg was a super guy and loved by all. Michael is so happy that he came out and celebrated his 73rd birthday with him. Michael said that Greg had a great time that night and the party was exceptional! We will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time, he fought so hard to beat his cancer. He was still fighting with all his strength. and then to be taken with the brain injury. He will be missed by everyone but remember the good times you shared together, those can never be taken away. Love to all of you....Dianne & Michael Kugel*

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**Dianne & Michael Kugel** - August 04, 2017 at 03:40 PM

AM

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



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**Amanda** - August 02, 2017 at 05:07 PM

SV

“ *Judy, Amanda and Jeff. We are so sorry to hear of Greg's passing. We feel so honored to have shared in his recent birthday celebration and to have the opportunity to visit with him one last time. It has been a long, hard road for all of you and we pray God will heal your hearts and your pain. Call on us if we can help in any way. You are in our thoughts during this difficult time. Love Randy and Su Visker*

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**Su Visker** - August 01, 2017 at 01:30 PM

JC

“ For Judy and Family,

*All of us here at Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation were so very sorry to hear that Greg has passed away.....he fought such a long, tough battle. I hope it is some comfort to you that now he doesn't have to struggle or suffer anymore, but is at peace now. We will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers!*



*Jean Copley  
Patient Services Coordinator  
Columbia Basin Cancer Foundation  
1031 W. Broadway Ave.  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
(509) 764-4644*

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**Jean Copley** - August 01, 2017 at 12:15 PM