



James Edward Miller

February 21, 1929 - February 10, 2019

James Edward Miller, a high school teacher affectionately known as "Old Man Miller," died following an injury from a recent fall. James, 89, of Olivet was born February 21, 1929 at his family's farm in Olivet, and died February 10, 2019. The son of Claude and Jessie (Dodd) Miller, James became known as the go-to-guy for family and friends, because he could build or fix anything. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from MSU and then his Master's Degree in teaching from Western Michigan University. Mr. Miller taught auto mechanics, machine shop, and drafting for 40 years at Battle Creek Lakeview High School, and he also taught at Kellogg Community College, as well as directing the evening adult high school completion at Battle Creek Lakeview for 23 years. He loved his students, and especially enjoyed when he could "scare them straight," and his students had numerous stories about him they loved to share, both real and embellished. During his tenure at Lakeview he was named teacher of the year and received a commendation from the Governor of the State of Michigan.

James loved fishing with his family, and even though he had a pond on his farm, he only fished there with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He and his wife, Cleone, fished for 25 years at Lake O'Sullivan in Northern Ontario, and he also enjoyed catching brook trout in the Upper Manistee River area, family fishing trips were some of their favorite times together. They also enjoyed driving around the country for Egg Art shows, and James was very talented with creating animated egg art, including Christmas displays, R2D2 from Star Wars, and an amazing space ship. In keeping with his abilities to do anything, he finished out the interior on their new home in 1994 on the original family farm. Other things James enjoyed included his 1972 M.G., which he drove to school and had it rebuilt years ago, and target shooting as well as loading his own ammunition.

James is survived by his wife of 64 years, Cleone; daughter, Susan Ashley; son, Timothy (Annette) Miller; 3 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, as well as all of his siblings.

Friends are encouraged to support the Miller family at visitation and funeral services.

Funeral services are Friday, February 15, 2019, 10:00 AM at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte with Pastor Randy Royston officiating. Visitation is Thursday, February 14, 2-4:00 PM and 6-8:00 PM at the funeral home. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to Battle Creek Food Bank. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of James on his Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery

Fort Custer National Cemetery

15501 Dickman Road
Augusta, MI, 49012

Events

FEB 14 **Visitation** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St., Charlotte, MI, US, 48813

FEB 14 **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

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FEB 15 **Funeral Ceremony** 10:00AM

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Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Pray Funeral Home - February 13 at 01:15 PM



“ A lovely tribute of his life. Brings tears of joy to see the beautiful life he lived. I'll always remember him with his little MG, his little hats, his very creative wife, and hold tight to my special brass nutcracker he helped me make in machine shop. Such a wonderful man. Thank you for sharing his tribute. God bless. Robin

Robin Ralston-holcomb - February 18 at 04:48 PM



“ I so enjoyed meeting distant cousin Jim and Cleone at the Egg Art Shows in Rockford, Illinois over 10 years ago. Annually we shared Genealogy, Ancient relatives photos, letters and stories, and dinners at the Machine Shed .I have so many wonderful memories of Jim. My love and prayers to Cleone. Carole

Carole Miller - February 19 at 08:32 PM



“ I took a couple of Mr. Miller's machine & auto shop classes back in high school, they were the best. He also allowed me to borrow some tools (for a brake job) after I had graduated. I witnessed several people getting the scared straight treatment, it was something I tried to avoid, just don't engage in horseplay. In the years since high school these classes and Mr. Miller are always a part of my "back in the day" stories. He was a great guy. Bryan Alday / LHS class of 75.

Bryan Alday - February 19 at 02:42 PM



“ Mr. Miller was a tough, kind-hearted good man. I'm one of the thousands of students he had a positive impact on in his years teaching at LHS. I took every class he offered and chose a career in machining due to a light that came on from taking his class as a freshman. Wish I could have thanked him in person later in life. My sincere condolences to the Miller family. Tom Longman, class of 1982.

Tom Longman - February 19 at 01:41 PM



“ I have many fond memories of hanging in or around Mr Miller’s classroom at lunch time as his daughter, Sue and I were very good friends. He was always so kind and encouraging. My condolences to the family.

Karen Roebuck - February 17 at 02:09 PM



“ I'm Richard Eldridge Lakeview grad 1962. Mr Miller and Mr Berg helped direct me toward a career of teaching drating. I Will always remember his smile and humor and dedication. Thank you Mr Miller you will be missed.

RICK ELDRIDGE - February 17 at 10:57 AM



“ I hated school and was a trouble maker. If not for the six credits received in Mr Miller's class, I never would have graduated. He got me interested in machining so much, I made it my life's career. In his class ONLY, I was a STAR! I still have a hammer and a vise that I made in his class. We didn't call him OLD MAN MILLER back then because he wasn't that old. When he got mad he would take deep breaths and a big vein would pop out on his forehead. Someone said he looked like a Blowsnake, with a bow tie. It stuck. I'm truly sorry for your loss and I will miss the only teacher I ever liked, Blowsnake.

Keith Tack
Lakeview High Class of 1970

keith tack - February 16 at 09:29 PM



“ Jim and Cleon were our neighbors for many years on Wildrose Lane. You could not have asked for a more caring, supportive and kind couple. Whether it was letting us sleep at their house because of a New Year’s Eve ice storm that knocked power out to the neighborhood, (they had a wood burning stove that heated most of their house), or Jim coming over when I was away on business when Sue was home alone with a bat in the house, to hosting an annual pool party for the neighborhood including Cleones famous peach pie , the Millers will always be special friends to us. Jim has taught so many students to be good people, He was one of a kind and will be surly missed.

Ken Kropen - February 15 at 06:51 AM



“ Mr. Miller was my shop teacher for four years at Lakeview. He was my favorite teacher and I appreciated his no-nonsense approach to teaching. He instilled my appreciation for mechanics that still resides with me today. I recently fixed a relative's 50 year old car that they could not get running and frequently quoted Mr. Miller during the process. "Old Man Miller" touched my life.

Jeffrey Wilson
Class of 1982

Wilson - February 14 at 07:07 PM



“ Jim was my wood shop teacher at Lakeview High in 1958. I still today have projects I made with his help and expertise. We used to stand out in the hall together between class and talk and interact with fellow students. He was a terrific and kind teacher. RIP Jim you taught me so many things I use today,

Tom Vieyra - February 14 at 08:43 AM



“ I took several years of automotive instruction from Mr. Miller in the 70's at Lakeview High School. Some memories: "Mr. Miller, what is the worst thing for a car's gas mileage?" His reply: "The brakes." And when he was talking about cleaning an engine cylinder prior to putting the engine back together: "I want the cleaning rag coming out of the cylinder cleaner than when it went in!" He had a way.. I think it says something that you remember what a man says - over 45 years after he said it. Rest in peace, sir...

Gary Blied
LHS class of 1976

Gary Blied - February 13 at 05:52 PM



“ He was my automotive teacher as well. Because of him to this day I still tinker with my own vehicles
RIP Sir and thank you for teaching me everything thing you know about
Ken Shannon/Brown
Class 1980

ken shannon/ brown - February 14 at 06:04 PM



“ What a kind man Jim was. He always had time to help me grow when I was doing projects around my house. I'm sure he will always give help others in Heaven. RIP Jim Miller

al Mumford - February 13 at 05:07 PM



“ Tom and I really enjoyed Jim. He was a real gem and a gentleman. Always willing to help in any way. He was a great principal of the evening classes at LHS. We have lost a great man and many will feel his loss. We pass our thoughts along to the family.

Mary and Tom Phillips

Mary Phillips - February 13 at 06:31 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Edward Miller.



February 13 at 04:33 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James Edward Miller.



February 13 at 04:12 PM



“ 41 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pray Funeral Home - February 13 at 12:14 PM



“ Mary Jo Totten lit a candle in memory of James Edward Miller



Mary Jo Totten - February 13 at 10:29 AM



“ Mr.Miller was my Metal Shop and Auto Mechanics teacher. But what I remember most was the day someone stepped on my hand in gym class crushing my girlfriends class ring on my little finger. In a great deal of pain I went to Mr Miller hoping he could get the ring off without cutting the ring,or my finger off. Using pliers and a hammer Mr Miller made the ring round enough so it would slide off my swollen finger. I'm so sorry for your loss. He was a good guy.

Rick Sutton - February 13 at 01:25 AM



“ He was Always MR MILLER to me. I first met him in the Fall of 1961 when my class became the first Senior's in the New High School on 28 th st & Columbia Ave. We had spoken many times before in the hallways at the old High School on Woodrow, but I felt I really met him when I became a student of his that year. He was a Straight Shooter all the way..... I really RESPECTED him. He taught me how to weld, the proper way to use HIS machine's, as he would say to us kid's. GOD BLESS YOU MR. MILLER & Family.

Lynn Everling - February 12 at 10:44 PM



“ Too much speed not enough feed! Build the new Pearly Gates. Take care Jim From your student and friend Mark Reichert

Mark Reichert - February 12 at 09:42 PM



“ The Berg and Keller Family purchased the Love's Journey for the family of James Edward Miller.



The Berg and Keller Family - February 12 at 07:48 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Edward Miller.



February 12 at 06:41 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Jim at Lakeview High and also the Lakeview night school. He and Chet Berg were the original, "Old Guard", in the Industrial Arts wing of the school. Highly respected and loved by both staff and students. Many kids would come in to the office and ask for a schedule change the first day of school. We'd tell them to give it a couple of days. They would come back and say, "he's tough, but I love him and the class!" ONE OF THE VERY BEST.... "Old Man Miller" RIP.

TOM BOMMERSBACH - February 12 at 05:04 PM



“ Will always remember Uncle Jim's cheerful greeting and kind smile, along with summer pig roasts and pool parties. Prayers for Aunt Cleone and all the family.

Jean Holland - February 12 at 03:09 PM



“ Candee L. Russell lit a candle in memory of James Edward Miller



candee l. russell - February 12 at 03:06 PM



“ i loved him graduated jan 1990 6 months late supposed me jun 89 he was awesome
candee l. russell r i p great man

candee l. russell - February 12 at 03:04 PM



“ The Dutton family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of James Edward Miller.



The Dutton family - February 12 at 11:32 AM



“ Thank you for being my 'grandpa' too when my own was so far away. Love to
Melissa and Grandma! - Claire Sparklin, High School Friend of Melissa

Claire Sparklin - February 12 at 11:28 AM