



William "Bill" Charles Miller Jr.

February 18, 1941 - March 16, 2025

William (Bill) Charles Miller, Jr. passed away at home on Sunday, March 16, 2025, at the age of 84.

He was born on February 18, 1941, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the late William Charles Miller, Sr. and Helen Coleman Miller. He was their eldest child and big brother to sisters, Eleanor May and Barbara Ann.

Bill attended Upper Merion High School, graduating in 1959. He maintained lifelong relationships with his classmates and often reflected on their special times together, especially the fun he had with dear friend, Don DeNick.

After business school, Bill met a pretty nurse named Nancy at a college Bible study and they married six months later. They spent 61 wonderful years together, enjoying numerous trips to the Caribbean and regular vacations at Florida beaches where they were often seen holding hands as they walked the shoreline.

Bill and Nancy adopted two children, who later married and gave him two grandsons - the joys of his life - until his great-grandchildren came along and stole every last piece of his heart.

Bill's passion, 2nd only to his family, was sports. He was an incredible

statistician, mentally cataloging the career stats of college and professional athletes over many decades. He also invested his time and energy into coaching young people in baseball and basketball.

Coach Miller poured knowledge and enthusiasm into a generation of hopeful players. He stayed in touch with many of them, cheering them on from the sidelines of their lives as they became adults and had families of their own.

Bill spent his entire professional career in the newspaper advertising business. The majority of his career was spent at the Tampa Tribune before his retirement in 2003. His engaging personality and distinctive laugh made him a favorite among his colleagues and clients.

Bill loved to talk and rarely met a stranger. All types of people, especially babies, gravitated towards him. He was generous to a fault, a fierce defender of the underdog and a hype man for everyone who was blessed enough to call him friend.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, in-laws, brother-in-law, niece and many friends. Although we are broken hearted he is gone, Christ has given us hope of a heavenly reunion. For now, we imagine he and Jerry Rutt are filling out their March Madness brackets and waiting for tip-off.

Dad, we miss you, immensely. You were our go-to when life got rough. We could always count on you to cheer us on and celebrate our accomplishments. Because of you, we have a deep love of family and a strong work ethic. Thank you for all the calls, texts, wise words of advice and the unmatched loyalty you showed us even when we did not deserve it.

A memorial service will be held for Bill, beloved husband, father, Papa, brother, uncle, son and coach on Sunday, April 6, 2025 at Crestview Baptist

Church, 615 Old Polk City Road, Lakeland, FL 33809. Visitation will begin at 1:00 PM, followed by a service at 1:30 PM.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Crestview Baptist Church or to One More Child, PO Box 8190, Lakeland, FL 33802.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 6. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Crestview Baptist Church
615 Old Polk City Rd
Lakeland, FL 33809

Memorial Service

APR 6. 1:30 PM (ET)

Crestview Baptist Church
615 Old Polk City Rd
Lakeland, FL 33809

Tribute Wall

TB

“ I met Bill in 1967. It became a life changing event for me. Prior, I had been employed in many unfulfilling positions trying to find my place in life. I was hired to work with Bill without having met him. When I did, I found a lifelong friend and a career. Bill was my tutor. He taught and showed me how to be a success in newspaper advertising sales. We worked as partners and we were really good. Then, as he promised the first day I met him, Bill moved to Florida, having secured a position at the Tampa Tribune. His departure was tougher for me than I expected but I did ok. Then, several months later, I got a call from him urging me to apply to the Tampa newspaper because they were expanding into a very competitive area in Florida. Because of Bill, I had my first ever plane trip and soon, a new job. Bill continued to assist me with my training and sales knowledge until I moved to the new territory. We have maintained our friendship ever since. Because of Bill, I enjoyed a career and retired from the newspaper industry like Bill did. Because of Bill, I found my place. I have never met anyone with so many attributes. I have never respected and admired anyone more than Bill.

He is an intensely emotional and painful loss for me.

I love him. Before Bill, I never had a big brother.

Tim Brennan

Tim Brennan - April 05, 2025 at 09:30 PM

TB

“ Timothy B. planted a grove of 50 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Charles Miller Jr..

Timothy B. - April 05, 2025 at 03:03 PM

MF

“Hello, hello!” Bill’s go-to greeting when answering a phone call. There’s nothing but warm memories with Bill. I married his daughter over 30 years ago and never witnessed a single moment of discord with Bill. He always put others first, looking out for them without a care. And let me tell you, he adored all his grandkids. Bill will be deeply missed as the patriarch of the family. No matter what challenges life threw his way, he was always the one who brought everyone together.

michael fuller - March 27, 2025 at 01:38 PM

SW

“ Steve and Kristi Wells planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Charles Miller Jr..

Steve and Kristi Wells - March 26, 2025 at 04:03 PM

SW

“ Steve and Kristi Wells purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William "Bill" Charles Miller Jr..



Steve and Kristi Wells - March 26, 2025 at 04:03 PM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Charles Miller Jr..



March 26, 2025 at 07:59 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Charles Miller Jr..

March 26, 2025 at 07:59 AM