



Joseph Paul Miller

September 13, 1936 - February 11, 2019

Joseph P. Miller, Jr. 82, of Sanford, FL passed away peacefully on Monday, February 11, 2019 at his home.

He was born in Detroit, Michigan to Joseph P. and Mildred A. Miller-Thorp. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Francis and son Brian J. Miller.

He lived most of his life in Wilmington, Delaware and moved to Central Florida in 2007, eventually settling in Sanford. He was known to many as “Doc” Miller, the name bestowed upon him by his third-grade teacher which stuck with him into adulthood. He attended Salesianum High School in Wilmington but cut his education short to enter the work force. He later attended and graduated from Widener University (Brandywine College) with an A.S. Degree in Criminal Justice.

“Doc” served his country in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War with Marine Fighter Squadron VMA 223 as a radio/radar technician.

He retired from the Wilmington Police Department in Delaware in 1984 where he served the community in the patrol and detective divisions. During his career in Law Enforcement, he received many official departmental commendations and letters from both the public and private sector.

He was a “jack of all trades” from automobiles to plumbing, carpentry, electrical and masonry work. A master of none, but proficient in all.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Pat of 52 years, a daughter Teri (Jonathan) Simpson, his grandson Jameson Miller Simpson, granddaughter Jessica Miller (CJ Roberts) and his great granddaughter Madelyn Rose Roberts.

In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated to the Honor Flight of Central Florida, 1170 Tree Swallow Drive, Winter Springs, FL 32708 or The Picnic Project, P.O. Box 2092, Sanford, FL 32772.

A memorial service will be held on February 21, 2019 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at DeGusipe Funeral Home, 905 Laurel Avenue, Sanford, FL 32771. A short service will be held on February 22, 2019 at 9:30am at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, 5525 U.S. Highway 1, North, Mims, FL 32754 and will include a 21-gun salute. All are welcome to both.

A special thank you to the people at Vitas Hospice for their loving care and support during his final days.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Sanford Chapel
905 Laurel Ave
Sanford, FL 32771
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Graveside Service

FEB **22**. 9:30 AM (ET)

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery
5525 US-1 North
Mims, FL 32754
(321) 383-2638
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp>

Tribute Wall

WW

“ I just visited Joe Miller timeline on Facebook this morning.
I was shocked and I'm so sorry to hear of the passing.
He was a good Marine and Police Officer.

RIP and Semper Fi my Marine friend.



Woody Woodworth - February 28, 2019 at 07:22 AM

JN

“ My deepest sympathy to the Miller family. I know Joe will be deeply missed. I just found out today after receiving an email from TWS Updates. Joe, and I worked together over the years on the Wilmington Police Dept., and we had some great times, and stories. Joe was the one who got me to sign up for the TWS site for retired police officers, and we used to chat back, and forth via emails. Again, he'll be deeply missed. R.I.P. my brother!

John Carr, Las Vegas, NV - February 20, 2019 at 12:54 AM

MC

“ Will love and miss you forever. You were a ray of sunshine in my life. I wrote an entry in my blog to honor your memory. Thanks for being my friend. Marion Chard

Marion J Chard - February 15, 2019 at 10:49 AM

DS

“ I first met Joe when we both joined the WILMINGTON Police Dept. I recall that he was the oldest guy in the class in years but his work ethic was exceptional. He out ran many of us on our runs and beat a few of us up a bit. I grew close to Joe over the years on the job. He will be remembered as a excellent police officer and family man by those who knew him in Wilmington. Go in peace brother and I'll see you sometime in the future. Pops

Don Palmatary Sr - February 15, 2019 at 10:41 AM



“ Joe, we met when my son was shot and almost lost his life. You were supportive, kind, understanding and prayerful. I enjoyed our conversations and your warm heart> I will miss that terribly. Until we meet again...



Shirley Inman Shea - February 13, 2019 at 10:19 PM

JW

“ I met Joe several years ago via Together We Served, and Facebook. Joe visited me a few years ago, but we had to spend our time outside of my home because my wife Mary was very ill. Joe attended Mary's funeral last July and I was thrilled that Joe 'Had my Back". As we both are Marines, we have that Brotherly love that most others will not understand. We spent a little time two days prior to his passing, but I regret not spending more time with him. Saturday, I also met Pat and Terri. They are strong ladies who attended to Joe's every need. God Bless the Miller family...
.....'Semper-Fi' my Brother!

Jack Wing - February 13, 2019 at 07:28 PM

BC

“ To Pat and family . so sorry for your loss it has been a pleasure to have gotten to know him over the last few years as a fellow Marine in the same Squadron VMA 223 just a few years apart and we shared a lot of memories . SO now he can RIP and one day we shall meet again Semper Fi Joe .

Bernie Cook - February 13, 2019 at 03:29 PM

SP

“ Sandra Prado lit a candle in memory of Joseph Paul Miller



Sandra Prado - February 13, 2019 at 03:13 PM

LB

“ I never served with Joe but we did serve in the same Corps and Squadron. He invited me into his circle of friends a couple of years ago. Semper Fi my friend.

Larry Baker - February 13, 2019 at 02:53 PM

CH

“ Joe and I corresponded by email and Social Media over the years and had a great time talking from a virtual standpoint. Rest in Peace Brother.

Chainsaw - February 13, 2019 at 02:44 PM

GS

“ *My fondest memory of Joe--He and my husband Dave had served in the USMC in the late '50's. We lost contact but reconnected in later years. Joe and Pat stopped to visit me on their way to Delaware one time after my beloved Dave had passed away. We spent a whole afternoon visiting and talking about 'old times'. Joe tried to talk me into writing a book--he said my stories of meeting Dave and my life with Dave were so interesting. I really didn't think I should write a book, but I did start a journal about my life from the day Dave and I met. That journal has grown to over 400 pages, front and back, and is still growing. Thank you, Joe, for encouraging me to make some memories for my family. I know you said you'd like to read my 'book' when I finished it--at least you heard a few of the stories! Thank you, Joe, for being a good friend. If you see Dave before I do, tell him I love him.*



Ginny Spahr - February 13, 2019 at 08:42 AM

MC

“ *Melissa Carpenter lit a candle in memory of Joseph Paul Miller*



Melissa Carpenter - February 13, 2019 at 07:27 AM

JS

“ *Having Thanksgiving over their house and meeting their family.*

Julia Simpson - February 13, 2019 at 06:24 AM

JL

“ Sorry to hear of Joe's passing.
I served with Joe in VMA 223 Marine Unit .
Stationed in El-Toro, Calif.
!955-57
Jesse C. Lawson

Jesse Lawson - February 12, 2019 at 10:55 PM



“ Our sincere condolences to Pat, Teri and all who loved Joe. We surely loved Joe and his infectious laughter and caring heart. You will be truly missed Joe! Love and prayers. Jan & Fritz

Janice Geiger - February 12, 2019 at 10:05 PM

AA

“ My condolences to the family. I had the good fortune to have worked with Joe in patrol division during the early 80's. Joe was a great guy and good cop. One of the things i remember most about Joe is his type writer. He always had it with him on patrol and would type all his reports. When we were busy he could type out a report in no time. While working with Joe i always found him to be very professional, caring, calm, patient and he was respected by his fellow officers. R.I.P. Joe, we shall meet again.

Angel "Doc" Alverio - February 12, 2019 at 09:19 PM

JP

“ I worked with Joe at the Wilmington Police.
You would have to look very hard to find a kinder, finer gentleman.
I am sorry for your loss.
Jacquelyn Pyle

jacquelyn pyle - February 12, 2019 at 06:43 PM

KT

“ Teri, Bob and I send our deepest condolences to you and your family. Sending love, Karen Tanner

Karen Tanner - February 12, 2019 at 06:37 PM


Richard
Kilmon

“ So sorry to hear of Joe's passing. I worked with Joe on "C" Platoon on the Wilmington Police Department. One thing Joe was known for was using a portable typewriter to write reports in his police car, while everyone else used a pen. Joe was obviously ahead of his time, as police cars now have computers for officers to write reports. Joe was a good man and a good police officer. Rest easy brother, your tour is over.

Lt. Richard T. Kilmon (Wilmington Police, Retired)

Richard Kilmon - February 12, 2019 at 06:05 PM

DV

“ My condolences to the Miller family. I worked with Joe on the Wilmington Police Department. I was one of the young officers and Joe was our “seasoned Vet”. He loved saying to we “Kids”, as he called us, “He who hesitates is lost”. Joe will be dearly missed by his retired brethren of WPD. Rest In Peace, my friend!

Dean Vietri - February 12, 2019 at 03:37 PM

EP

“ Joe a fine officer with WPD whom i met when i was a young Prosecuting Attorney in the 70's for the De. Dept. of Justice...we had several cases together and they were always good results...a fine, caring man who would do anything to help you... I miss you Joe !My prayers for you and your Family.....God Bless !



Ed Pankowski - February 12, 2019 at 03:34 PM

TD

“ Pat, Teri and family. I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Joe. He was great man. Heaven doesn't know how lucky they are to get such a special Angel. I pray that all your wonderful family memories will sustain you in your time of grief and sorrow

Terry Davis - February 12, 2019 at 03:09 PM

JM

“ Our condolences for your family,Pat. We are sorry for your loss. A true HERO has now become an ANGEL. He is sadly missed.

Jim and Diana McNair

james mcnair - February 12, 2019 at 02:14 PM



“ I met Joe through Teri, his daughter, and my dearest friend. He welcomed me in to his family and in to his heart immediately. Not many people do that, but Joe did! Every time I saw him, he hugged me, smiled warmly, and called me 'sweet lips'. That was such a genuinely kind act. To me, that was Joe. It made my heart smile. I'll miss that - I'll miss you.

Until we meet again.....

Bonnie Marsh

Bonnie Marsh - February 12, 2019 at 12:38 PM