



## LaVern Miller

August 28, 1928 - January 25, 2013

LaVern "Lee" Miller (1928-2013)

Cedar Falls- LaVern "Lee" Miller, 84, died Friday, January 25, at his home after a lengthy illness.

He was born on August 28, 1928 in Manchester, Iowa to Harvey and Mildred Lee Miller. He graduated from Manchester High School in 1946 and immediately enlisted in the Navy where he served until 1949. That fall he entered ISTC (UNI) where he met his future wife. He married Donnabelle Beatty on June 7, 1953 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Lee taught high school physics and electronics in Muscatine, Iowa for two years before leaving the field of education for business. He joined Simpson Furniture in 1955 and was a partner there until 1971. At that time he became the director of Alumni and Development at the University of Northern Iowa. While at the University, Lee's determination and drive lead to the raising of seven million dollars in private funds to complete the UNI Dome in 1976. He initiated the Parent's Association and the Student Association at UNI. During that time Mr. Miller was also a lobbyist to the Iowa Legislature on behalf of the University. He spent the last seven years of his career as the President of the Cedar Falls Chamber of Commerce.

Lee's commitment to the community was evident by his service on the Cedar Falls City Council for 10 years, and his lifetime membership serving the Lions Club. He also served on several boards, including Exceptional Persons, the

MS Board, Sturgis Falls Celebration Board, and many other community organizations. Lee was a long time member and promoter of the UNI Athletic Club.

In 2010 Lee was honored by being inducted into the UNI Athletic Hall of Fame for his half century of contributions to the University.

He is survived by his wife Donnabelle, four children; Lynn (Ken) Trautmann, Mark Miller (Grace Boatright), Amy Miller (Thomas Sullivan), Matt (Laura) Miller; twelve grandchildren and one great granddaughter. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, and only sister Mary Lee Miller.

Funeral services will be 2:00pm Tuesday, January 29, at Prairie Lakes Church in Cedar Falls. Visitation will be from 4-8pm Monday, January 28, at Richardson Funeral Service in Cedar Falls and also one hour prior to the service at church. Private family interment will be prior to service at Fairview Cemetery in Cedar Falls. Military Honors provided by AMVETS post #49.

# Tribute Wall

CW

“ I extend my sympathy to the entire Miller family. I am so sorry for your loss; your father/husband was a kind man and always very nice to me. May he live on in your hearts. Peace be with you.

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**Carla Tarr Waller** - March 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Mom is not feeling the best so we won't be attending but know that we are all with you in thought and prayers. The Marilyn Ortberg family

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**Susie Ortberg Leonhard** - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

RC

“ I will always respect Lee for his service to the Cedar Falls community and his friendly countenance. We will remember you all in our prayers.  
Randy, Kim & Katie Costello

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**Randy Costello** - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

TB

“ Mom shared the news about Lee's passing. She has kept me updated over the last several months and it surely was a long road. I am so glad that we were able to get together in Cedar Falls and see some of your family. I send my condolences and love and will be with you over the next several days in spirit.

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**Teresa Brenholdt** - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

MB

“ My heart goes out to Donnabelle and her family. Lee was such a special, caring man.  
I am sorry we won't be attending the services as we are in Arizona but will be with you in spirit. Our deepest condolences.

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**Mike and Anne Betts** - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

KW

“ Hello Donabelle and family -

We were so sorry to hear the news of LaVern's passing. I have so many wonderful memories of him and the time we spent with your family when I was a kid. Especially Lynne - I was so looking forward to seeing her again, but we are unable to make the wake and funeral. Please know that you will be in my thoughts - and in my prayers. Lee was a very special man and I know you will miss him. May your memories always keep him close to your heart. I'm sure he is having a bowl of popcorn in heaven with my Dad.

Love you all,

Charlie and Kris (Miller) Watkins  
411 Parkland Drive SE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
319-521-9498  
kriswatkins28@hotmail.com

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**Kris (Miller) Watkins** - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

PM

“ We send our sympathy with your loss. Lee and his vision have been huge in making CF a great place to live.

*Always a smiling face, always positive, always a friend.*

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.*

*May He Rest in Peace!!! Pat &Jo Mitchelle*

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**Pat &Jo Mitchell** - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

CM

“ I will miss him when ever I think of all the great times we had together at Cedar Valley Wetlands and all the other times we ran into each other around town.

*He would always make the most crappy day into the greatest day ever with just a smile.*

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**christina mesenbrink** - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

MA

“ Thinking of all of you today.Lee was a special, warm, caring, man.

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**Mercedes (Wumkes) Abadessa.** - January 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM