



Michael Millar

August 7, 1932 - January 4, 2013

Michael H. Millar died January 4th, 2013 from malignant melanoma.

He was born on August 7th, 1932, the son of Helen Jackson and John Millar. He grew up in Chicago, graduating from Hyde Park High School in 1950. He moved east to attend Harvard, and met Ruth Covino. They wed on June 6th, 1953.

After graduation, they moved back to Chicago for Mike's graduate work at the University of Chicago where he earned his Master's Degree and in later years, his PhD.

Mike and Ruth moved their young family to Cedar Falls in 1962, where he began his teaching career in the math department at the University of Northern Iowa. He remained at UNI until his retirement in 2002.

Mike was very active on campus, developing numerous new courses for the Math department and InterAmerican Studies. His pride was working with the American Federation of Teachers, serving as president for many years.

A true educator, he was honored with Iowa's Distinguished Math Teacher Award.

He taught summers in Colombia, China, Jamaica, Belize, and The University of California, Santa Barbara.

He held many interests: he loved Haitian art, politics, books, history, Scrabble, and going to the movies.

He believed strongly in worker's rights, and civil rights for all peoples. He worked closely with the Cedar Valley Names Project during the AIDS crisis

and was proud to see the Quilt several times on the National Mall in Washington DC.

By far, his most appreciated work was that of husband and father. Patient, kind, and adventurous, he treated his kids to weekly outings of sledding, bowling, cheeseburgers, bike rides, and drive-in movie marathons.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Ruth Covino Millar, his children; Paula (Jim)Coombs of Edmonton, Alberta, Ken Millar of Tampa, Florida, Tom (Sue) Millar of New Port Ritchey, Florida, Susan Millar (Dennis Barnett) of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Eric (Stacey) Millar of Washburn Iowa, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by his sister, Pat Eichenlaub of Fort Meyers, Florida, brother in-law George (Marie) Covino of Medford, Ma., sisters in-law Mary Covino of San Antonio, Texas, JoAnn (Paul) Gastanguay, of Billerica. Ma, and Lorraine Millar of North Branford, Ct.

He is preceded in death by his daughter Lynn Millar, his brother Jack, a niece, nephew and his parents.

Memorial service will be held 11:00 a.m. Wednesday at Richardson Funeral Service, Cedar Falls with private burial in Greenwood. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 pm Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to The Michael H. Millar Endowed Scholarship Fund (UNI Foundation, 204 Commons, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0282) or to the Cedar Falls Public Library.

Tribute Wall

VD

“ *My you rest in peace ,you were a wonderful person*

Virginia Diaz - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

RJ

“ *Best wishes to the Millar family. I'm so sorry for your lost*

Reginald Johnson - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

LS

“ *so sorry for your lose Eric, our prayers to you and your family.*

larry and Elaine Sherbon - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

JR

“ *To you, Ken, and your mom and family we are so saddened to hear this news about your dad. We know how close you and all your family are. Our thoughts, prayers and love go out to all of you.*

*Love,
Jeanne and Maureen*

Jeanne Richard - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

LF

“ *Tom,
Randy and I are so very sorry to hear of the passing of your father.
Your family are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.*

Linda Hagedorn Finley - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

LW

“ When I think of Mike Millar I think of heart centered living. Inspired by heart. Caring for others, loving deeply, willingly tackling issues that would help make life better for those around him...and personally for me, never questioning why I would be at his house constantly...for years! He always included me in their big, wonderful family. Bowling, sledding, math trivia at the table, thought provoking conversations, and laughter. Mike offered this anchor to me. It truly was an anchor! Helping shape a young person's moral compass, which is then passed on to the next generation, is considered to be the best legacy we offer the world. Mike Millar gave that to me. I am eternally grateful to have received it. My love to Ruth and everyone during this difficult time.

Lisa Wheeler - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

KS

“ Auntie Ruthie and cousins Paula, Ken, Tom, Sue and Eric: I was so sad to hear of Uncle Mike's passing! I know I do not need to tell you what a great man he was! I loved it when he would come to Boston to visit us, he would take us all over, we would see more of Boston while he was here than we did living here! Then of course there were the days he wanted to do the tour on his own because we "slowed him down" he would be out at the crack of dawn and not come home til dark, we would then all sit around playing Scrabble listening to his stories of his day! He was the best!! Please know that we will all miss him! Reading these comments confirms he is as loved and respected in lowas as he is in Boston! God bless you Uncle Mike, and may HE keep you in the palm of His hand! I love you! Kelly

Kelly Sullivan - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

AW

“Ruth, so sorry to hear of your husband's passing, Just know you and your family are in my prayers. I've enjoyed your friendship in our water aerobics class at the YWCA and hope all goes well for you in the upcoming days, weeks and months!

I'll be seeing you (hopefully) back in the water later on. Hang in there, my friend! You are a dear!!

Angie Wrucke

Angie Wrucke - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM

BK

“Mike Millar was a really great guy. I met him at UNI in early 1980s when he was showing labor struggle films to students in the union on a 16mm film projector. I like him right away. Always working to provide campus and community opportunities for programs and speakers on human rights and workers' struggles all over the world. He never preached these ideals, but always spoke with honest down-to-earth language and humor about peoples' struggles for freedom. I worked with him on the Latin American Studies Committee for several years and appreciated his dedication. He lead the move to create the Inter-American Studies major and minor —against arrogant administrators and hypocritical interests that preached interdisciplinarity but opposed that progressive movement —which turned out great graduates now engaged in humanitarian organizations. He could always see right through the parasitical administrators and elitists. Mike was kind and very generous with his time for students and colleagues, and, apparently for family and friends. He was always happy to see you and to talk about what was on your mind, then on his. We'll miss him a lot. My condolences to Ruth and family and friends. Bob Krueger

Bob Krueger - March 29, 2013 at 02:48 PM



“ Grandpa was the best. Always a hug and pat on the back. So many wonderful memories and great family times. His smile and kind, loving ways will live with us always. We will always love you Grandpa.

January 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM