



## Ruth Covino Millar

May 4, 1932 - January 28, 2025

Ruth Covino Millar (92) died peacefully at home of pneumonia, surrounded by family, on January 28th, 2025.

Ruth was born on May 4th, 1932, to the large and loving family of Helen Carroll and Maurice Covino in Everett, Massachusetts. She graduated from Everett High School in 1950 and Simmons College in Boston with a degree in journalism, in 1954. While at Simmons, Ruth attended a dance at Harvard, where she met Michael Millar. Smitten with each other, they married in 1953 and began a very long life together. They moved from Boston to Chicago so Mike could attend graduate school and then moved their young family to Cedar Falls for Mike's job at UNI in 1962. Ruth spent many years raising their expanded family of six kids, and at the age of 41 earned her master's degree in education and library science from UNI. Ruth worked in the Waterloo Public School System as a librarian and media specialist. She started new libraries at Krieg and Van Eaton Elementaries, was the lead librarian at Castle Hill Elementary and ended her career at West High School.

Ruth was the sweet center of the family. She spent years welcoming kids and friends onto the porch and into the house, where they could always find a popsicle, a bowl of Lucky Charms, a cup of coffee and a listening ear. She imbued in her children and grandchildren the love of reading and the importance of being a kind and caring listener. Her legacy of love extended

beyond traditional family boundaries and included very special souls that she folded in along the way. She loved her lifelong friends. We were all her people.

Ruth was a civic minded, lifelong Democrat and never missed a vote. She believed in and supported many organizations that reflected her values, and donated her time at the Book Nook in the Cedar Falls Public Library. Her most precious gift to the world was being kind and thoughtful even if she didn't agree with you. The best way to honor her memory is to emulate her ability to treat others with compassion, respect and love. If you would like to make a donation, Ruth suggested adding to the Michael Millar Endowed Scholarship Fund at UNI, or your local food bank or library.

She will be very deeply missed by all who loved her. Left to share stories and cherish her memory are: Her sisters, Joanne Gastonguay (BillERICA, MA) Mary Covino (San Antonio, Texas) Her children, Paula Millar Coombs (Jim-Alberta, Canada) Ken Millar (Cedar Falls, Iowa) Tom Millar (Sue- New Port Richey, Fla) Sue Millar (Dennis Barnett- Cedar Rapids, Iowa) Eric Millar (Stacey-Washburn, Iowa) Ruth was adored by her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Grandchildren: Nicole Lesko (Adam), Mathew Millar (Kayla), Mandi Risse (Austin), Mira Boyce (Josh), Marley Millar, Allison Baker (Chad), Stephanie Coombs (Nils), Lucas Barnett, and Gus Barnett Great Grandchildren: Cooper Lesko, Henry Risse, Margot and Jack Boyce, Clark and Aura Baker Ruth loved her many nieces and nephews and their families. She loved being kept up on all their news. They were a cherished part of her extended family.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Mike Millar, and daughter Lynn Millar, her parents Helen and Maurice Covino, her sisters Margaret Sullivan and Helen Lee, and her brothers Nicky and George Covino.

Please join us as we celebrate Ruth's life. Services will be held at

Richardson's Funeral Home, Cedar Falls, Iowa on Monday, February 3rd  
10:30-11:30 am visitation with a 11:30am Service 1:00 – 3:00 pm Lunch at St.  
Patrick's Catholic Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenwood Cemetery

the end of College St, north of First Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 273-8628

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Family and Friends

FEB 3. 10:30 AM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service  
615 Main Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-3525  
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com  
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

## Memorial Service

FEB 3. 11:30 AM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service  
615 Main Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-3525  
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com  
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

# Tribute Wall

LW

“ *Such a beautiful service held today for Ruth Millar. Thank you for filming it as I was unable to attend. I laughed and cried through it and was so happy to be able to be a part of it. I felt cared for and loved by Ruthy. Who she was informed me of who I wanted to be when I grew up! She was strong, smart and I was comfortable in her presence. I felt safe in the home she created with Mike. Ruth was a dear friend to my Mom and I knew my Mom felt she had a lifeline with Ruthy much as I felt I had one with my best friend, her daughter, Lynnne. It made for a “double special” bond in my young eyes. I have been blessed to know her through many stages in my life and she was always interested in me and listened to me with ears on her heart. What a gift to offer the world. I will certainly miss our talks. Thank you Ruthy for everything. Rest in peace. I love you.*

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**Lisa Wheeler** - February 03, 2025 at 09:15 PM

TE

“ *Condolences to Ken & the extended Millar family on the passing of Ruth. I knew Ken & the family through his friendship with my brother Jon. Occasionally I would stop with my brother when he was visiting Ken and Ruth and she was always hospitable and kind to me. She knew my mother and if memory serves, they sometimes played bridge together along with their mutual friends. I did not realize until I saw her obituary that she was once head librarian at Castle Hill Grade school in Waterloo. I attended elementary school there through the fifth grade, before we moved to Cedar Falls, though I don't think at the same time Ruth was there.*

*I am sorry to you for your loss.*

*Tom Euchner*

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**Tom Euchner** - February 03, 2025 at 05:42 PM

RF

“ 1 file added to the album *Ruth Millar service*



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**Richardson FS** - February 03, 2025 at 01:50 PM

JE

“ I came to know Ruth and her husband Mike through my friendship with their oldest son, Ken. I eventually graduated from UNI in 1977 and left Cedar Falls, even though it will always be my hometown.

Whenever I came back to Cedar Falls for the holidays, I usually shared a few beers with Ken and some others and inevitably met and visited with Ruth and Mike whenever I stopped by to give Ken a lift to whatever watering hole we were after. Without fail, Ruth would tell me to have a seat and we usually talked for more than a few minutes. Ruth always asked me about my family (especially my three kids) my wife Susan, and how my college teaching career was going? She was kind, thoughtful and always wanted to talk. My Mother Bev and Ruth were good acquaintances as well and Ruth was always interested in hearing how she and my Dad (Russ) were doing in retirement.

Ruth was a sweet lady whom I share many fun memories with. I also recall her husband Mike who was usually around and home during my short visits. He too, was always interested in my life. I really appreciated how interested and engaged they were in politics, their adopted hometown of Cedar Falls, and found that we usually agreed on almost everything political. Strong Democrats to the core, we all were and are!

I count getting to know many members of the Millar family as one of the most enjoyable and pleasant memories I have of growing up in Cedar Falls and returning often to see my parents (who also spent many years living in C.F.). Good people!

I send my condolences to Ruth's extended family, along with my thoughts during this difficult time. Your mother was an original and your family was so fortunate to have her in your lives for many years! Thank you Ruth, for a life well-lived, full of books, and all the variety that surrounded your long life. May you rest in peace.

Jon Euchner

**Jon Euchner** - February 02, 2025 at 08:52 PM

IW

“ *Isle Casino Hotel Waterloo purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ruth Covino Millar.*



**Isle Casino Hotel Waterloo** - January 31, 2025 at 01:39 PM

GC

“ *2 files added to the album Family*



**George Covino** - January 31, 2025 at 08:34 AM

TC

“ *The Children of George and Marie Covino purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ruth Covino Millar.*



**The Children of George and Marie Covino** - January 31, 2025 at 08:28 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Ruth Covino Millar.



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January 30, 2025 at 03:07 PM