



Jack Luther Miller, Lt. Col, USAF Ret.

August 31, 1925 - February 5, 2019

Jack Luther Miller, 93, a self-proclaimed “almost native” of Fort Collins, having suffered a heart attack, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 surrounded by family.

Jack was born in Eaton, Colorado on August 31, 1925, the middle son of five boys born to Desdemona (Davis) and John Thomas Luther Miller. During his youth, given his father’s employment, Jack also lived in Milliken, Johnstown, a timber camp on Black Mountain northwest of Red Feather Lakes, Log Cabin, Estes Park and Fort Collins. As a child growing up in the Great Depression, Jack knew the hardships he and his family faced daily and he began his contribution to the family finances at the age of fourteen. Jack graduated from Fort Collins High school in 1943.

On his 18th birthday, he and his Mother drove to Denver where he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps. He became a WWII aviation cadet and received his officer’s commission in 1945 as a Flight Engineer on the Boeing B-29 Super-fortress, the heaviest bomber in the world at that time. He served his country faithfully, diligently and continuously through his years of active service and then until 1975 upon his retirement from the United States Air Force Reserves. Along the way, he earned his pilot ratings of Commercial, Instrument and Multi-Engine.

Jack met his future wife, Frances Pickinpaugh, during 1943, at the Jitney Dance Center in Longmont, Colorado. After he served actively in the military (Army Air Corps), for “the remainder of the 'duration””, they were married on Armistice Day, November 11th, 1945.

Upon his discharge from active duty, the next few years were spent as a home building contractor. In 1948 he went to work as a carpenter at Colorado A&M (now CSU) and in 1949 designed and built the home near City Park where he lived for the next 70 years (with several self-constructed additions and remodels beyond his 80th birthday). As his career proceeded over the next 39 years at the college/university he advanced to Project Manager/Senior Physical Plant Construction Manager and CSU’s Corporate Pilot flying both routinely to the University’s branch experiment stations as well as transporting dignitaries from border to border and coast to coast.

His interests and hobbies included fly tying and fishing, woodworking, antique aircraft restoration, as well as domestic and international travel with his wife and family, whether he was piloting or on a commercial carrier. He especially enjoyed their road trips through the mountains of Colorado and Wyoming. Jack was extremely proud to be a fifty year Master Mason, that he had been active in the Breakfast Optimist Club, as well as both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts while his children were involved. In addition, he was a member and supported the work and efforts of many groups such as the Aircraft Owners and Pilots’ Association (AOPA), The Experimental Aircraft Association, (EAA), The National Biplane Association (NBA), the Beechcraft Staggerwing Club, the N3N Owners and Restorers Association and The Antique Airplane Association (AAA).

Jack was known for his hard work, quick and firm handshake, a love of pineapple and coconut, his willingness to lend a hand in any situation and his integrity. He enjoyed a good joke, a prank and an airport special.

He is remembered as a loving, meticulous and generous husband, father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather whose greatest pride was family, home and friends. He was generous and thoughtful. Jack was the friend of many, giving the most important gift of all ... his time. Since his wife's passing, he was fortunate to live independently and self-sufficiently, with his constant feline companion, Kit Kat. They took care of each other.

Jack is survived by his son Dale L. Miller and daughter Gail L. Miller Bondhus (John R.) of Fort Collins, Granddaughters Summer Legendre (Jon), Vanessa Nook (Brendan), Kevin Miller (Nate Spotts) and Grandson Garrett Miller (Tirrel), all of northern Colorado. He is also survived by four Great-Grandchildren, Grant and Lucca Legendre and Esme and Graeme Spotts, In addition he is survived by his sole remaining brother Gerry M. Miller (Char) of Grand Junction, Colorado, sister-in-law Donna Miller of Bakersfield, CA as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Jack was preceded in death by Frances, his wife of 69 years, his parents, three brothers, John Thomas Luther Miller, Jr., Thomas M. Miller, and Melvin W. Miller, his daughter-in-law Beverly B. Miller as well as many other relatives and friends, too numerous to list.

The family wishes to extend a very special Thank You to Scott Oliver, MD and his staff of UC Health Anschutz Campus (Lion's Eye Center), Victoria McCarthy, MD of Associates in Family Medicine, Donna Tegethoff of Advanced Spine and Physical Therapy, Susan Baker of Advanced Hearing Services, Fire Station #2 Firemen/EMTs and UC Health ambulance EMT responders, Matt Purvis, MD, William Miller, MD, PVH ER and ICU staff, as well as Jack's neighbors.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fort Collins Cat Rescue or The Antique Aircraft Association in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Fort Collins, CO 80524. Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held at 10:00 AM, Friday, February 15, 2019 at Bohlender Funeral Chapel.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **15**. 10:00 AM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel
121 W. Olive Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Tribute Wall

KP

“ Remembering Jack Miller brings back memories of the 1960's when I worked with him at the CSU Physical Plant. I was a graduate Civil Engineer, and we became Master Masons under the tutorage of Clarence Carlson; but most important was his help on many of the projects he did with my family. He was like a "big brother" who was there to help with building the doll house, painting the pickup, etc., and helping me to formulate those personal goals that changed my life. The years pass by but the memories remain. I look forward to the time we will unite in heaven praising our Lord.
Kent & Arlene Anderson - New Braunfels, TX.

Kent M. Anderson, P.E. - February 14, 2019 at 08:55 PM

TW

“ Knowing Jack and Francis for 60+ years it was always interesting to see what projects were going on. From bldg. Giant box kites and igloos and restoring vintage biplanes to helping my family with home projects. We will miss you Jack and the rumble of those planes. My thoughts are with your family. Tom and Nina Whitehead.

Tom Whitehead - February 14, 2019 at 12:50 PM

CM

“ Jack, A very special man, someone we looked up to, admired and respected, always will.

Curt and Merrie

Curt ans Merrie - February 13, 2019 at 10:18 PM

DS

“ I own the home next to Jack’s backyard on Scott Street. It was a privilege to get to know Jack over chats by our back fences. We talked about invasive weeds and house building stories in which we shared a joined interest. He also shared with me his pain after having lost his beloved wife.
His backyard airplane sculpture made me try to pry stories of aviation and his military expeience. Such an interesting gentleman!

Glad I was able to get to know him.

Dennis Sovick

Dennis Sovick - February 13, 2019 at 11:51 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jack Luther Miller, Lt. Col, USAF Ret..



February 12, 2019 at 03:21 PM

DW

“ Jack Miller you were one of a kind! Most of all, you were a true friend to all who knew you.
There are too many memories to share here, but let's just say knowing you for almost 70 years and watching everything you did for you family as well as mine has been an unbelievable experience. All my thoughts to your family from my family.

Fly High Jack! RIP. You fought the good fight.

Denny Whitehead

Denny Whitehead - February 12, 2019 at 02:31 PM

RW

“ *My sincere condolences. Lighting a candle for your walkway to Heaven. - Robert Whitehead*



Robert Whitehead - February 12, 2019 at 01:44 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Jack Luther Miller, Lt. Col, USAF Ret..*



February 12, 2019 at 01:34 PM

PS

“ *I regret not having known Jack very long. His stories down memory lane were fascinating and full of color. He was a proud man. Proud of his accomplishments and having a loving family. I hope there are "airport specials" served in your new home.*

P. S-W - February 12, 2019 at 10:19 AM

JB

“ *Jana and Karl, Michelle and Matt, Nicole and Brent purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Jack Luther Miller, Lt. Col, USAF Ret..*



Jana and Karl, Michelle and Matt, Nicole and Brent - February 11, 2019 at 10:27 PM

RC

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Robbi Whitehead Cunningham - February 11, 2019 at 09:23 PM

SI

“ Debbie and I had the privilege to be the next "caretakers" of his pride n joy aeroplane, N333E... enjoyed what time I was able to spend with him.
Since I, also am a cat person... we will help out his local cat place mentioned.
Fly high Jack :)



Skot Ingram - February 11, 2019 at 06:34 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Jack Luther Miller, Lt. Col, USAF Ret..



February 11, 2019 at 11:06 AM

NL

“ One of the greatest people I've ever known. I can't even wrap my head around this right now. Thank you for everything, Jack. I'm utterly crushed.



Nikki Lund - February 10, 2019 at 01:46 PM

BA

“ Brother Gerry, Char, Randy, Amanda, Ashley & Alex purchased the Ever Upward Bouquet for the family of Jack Luther Miller, Lt. Col, USAF Ret..



Brother Gerry, Char, Randy, Amanda, Ashley & Alex -
February 09, 2019 at 11:46 PM

LM

“ Fidelity Lodge #192 extends our deepest sympathy to the family of Jack. Brother Jack was the oldest living member of Fidelity Lodge, having been raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on February 26, 1966.

Larry Moline - February 09, 2019 at 02:07 PM

RP

“ I’m sad to hear of Jack’s passing. I spent many hours in that home and no matter how old I was, he always called me a “bald-headed blabber mouth!” I vaguely remember taking an airplane flight with him and Gail as a very young girl, my mom was hysterical. Such great memories with such a wonderful family. Bless you Jack Miller, say hi to Frances and Mom for me please!

Fondly,
Rhonda Wetzler Plattner

r platts - February 09, 2019 at 07:52 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Bohlender Funeral Chapel - February 08, 2019 at 01:36 PM