



William Banks Miller Jr.

July 7, 1932 - November 23, 2019

William Banks Miller, Jr. 87 of Huntersville died November 23, 2019 at his home. He was born on July 17, 1932 in Cleveland County to the late William Banks Miller, Sr. and Elizabeth Bowen Miller.

“I have been blessed beyond my wildest dreams” was an often-heard phrase from “Banks” Miller in his golden years.

Banks was a cherished husband, proud father, devoted son, grandfather to six grandchildren, as well as a devout Christian. He was a Golden Lion with over 50 years of service to the Huntersville Lions Club, and was an avid outdoorsman, fisherman, and skilled quail hunter who delighted in training his own bird dogs.

Banks was born in Cleveland County, North Carolina, and grew up in the family home on Maple Creek, where he spent many young hours exploring. He attended Piedmont Elementary School. Upon its closing for snow one day, he chose to follow the creek home by foot instead of riding the bus, to the worried consternation of his parents.

He transferred to Fallston Elementary School and, being of an enterprising nature, would open Paul Dixon’s general store before school, go to class, and then return to the store to work until American Legion baseball practice in the evening. His prowess in baseball later earned him an invitation to try out for the NY Yankees baseball franchise. In basketball, he was part of the renowned “Fallston Flying Five” High School team, which he parlayed into a scholarship to Gardner Webb University. At that institution he averaged 13 points a game.

While at Gardner Webb, he met and married his beloved wife, Sara Mull Cooke, for a relationship that would last over 65 years.

Banks and Sara both graduated from Gardner Webb, and then completed a MS of Education at West Carolina University. After graduation, Banks volunteered for military

service, and served in the U.S. Army as a member of the 62nd Signal Corps until his honorable discharge.

He started his educational career as an educator at Hoskins Elementary School before becoming the principal of Huntersville Elementary School, which he led for 21 years. Banks finished his career at Alexander Junior High School before his retirement.

After retirement, Banks traveled extensively by camper, gold panning and exploring his way to Alaska twice before parking his camper at his favorite fishing spot, Lake Wateree. Throughout his retirement, he spent countless hours fishing any body of water large enough to throw a plug into.

Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Sara Cooke Miller; sons, William Banks Miller III (Susan) of Houston, TX, Chad Cooke Miller of Leonardtown, MD, and Chet Todd Miller (Sally) of Kings Mountain, NC; brother, Stephen Miller (Sara) of Vale, NC and his grandchildren: William Banks Miller IV, Sharon Miller Wofford (Nick), Thomason Cooke Miller, Kelly Cooke Johnson (Jason), Benjamin Stephen Miller and Grace Ann Miller.

The family will receive friends from 5-7 PM Friday, November 29 at James Funeral Home.

The funeral service will be held at 3 PM Saturday, November 30 at First Baptist Church Huntersville with a private interment following at Northlake Memorial Gardens.

The family will receive guests at the Huntersville First Baptist Fellowship Hall following the interment.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Huntersville Building Fund, 119 N. Old Statesville Rd. Huntersville, NC 28078 in lieu of flowers.

James Funeral Home of Huntersville is serving the family.

Cemetery

NorthLake Memorial Gardens

11001 Alexanderana Road
Huntersville, NC, 28078

Events

NOV 29 **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

James Funeral Home
10520 Arahova Dr P.O. Box 3434, Huntersville, NC,
US, 28078

NOV 30 **Service** 03:00PM - 04:00PM

First Baptist Church Huntersville
119 North Old Statesville Road, Huntersville, NC, US,
28078

Comments



“ I owe Banks so much for hiring me to come to Alexander. I learned so much about leadership as he was a companionate but strong principal. He was admired and respected by students, teachers, and parents. I loved his stories, especially about fishing . Jimmy Poole

jimmy poole - November 29, 2019 at 09:12 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Miller's passing. He was a beloved principal to me at Huntersville Elementary. Our families attended church together at First Baptist until we moved. So sorry Chip and family. Our prayers are with you all. Your dad was an amazing man! Thank you for sharing him with the rest of us.

Marta Wilson Washam - November 27, 2019 at 01:54 PM



“ E.J. and Betty Trivette purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William Banks Miller Jr..



E.J. and Betty Trivette - November 27, 2019 at 10:41 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William Banks Miller Jr..



November 26, 2019 at 03:34 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Banks Miller Jr..



November 26, 2019 at 09:56 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Banks Miller Jr..



November 26, 2019 at 09:56 AM



“ Jessica Parks lit a candle in memory of William Banks Miller Jr.



Jessica Parks - November 26, 2019 at 09:20 AM



“ Victoria James lit a candle in memory of William Banks Miller Jr.



Victoria James - November 25, 2019 at 08:03 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Banks Miller Jr..



November 25, 2019 at 05:48 PM



“ What an amazing man, educator and father, husband and grandfather!! I was honored to be a student at Huntersville Elementary while Mr Miller was principal. He was so respected and loved!' It was such an honor to have Mr and Mrs Miller be a part of our Silver Sneakers program at our Nomad Aquatics and Fitness through the years!! He will certainly be missed. Myra and Steve Billings and Family.

myra Billings - November 25, 2019 at 04:34 PM



“ Banks Miller was an amazing man and his life was a gift to all of us who call Huntersville home (especially for those blessed enough to have called it home in the 70's and 80's). The list of his positive attributes is virtually endless. He personally invested in the lives of others and changed the world as a result.

Chip Cathey - November 25, 2019 at 12:25 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Banks Miller Jr..



November 25, 2019 at 08:48 AM



“ from your friends at Mecklenburg Bassmasters purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William Banks Miller Jr..



from your friends at Mecklenburg Bassmasters - November 25, 2019 at 07:27 AM



“ Banks was a great man, with a giving heart. He was my father's best friend for as long as I can remember. I was truly blessed to have known him. My heart and prayers go out to his family.

Debbie O. Owenby - November 24, 2019 at 07:43 PM



“ The Ross Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Banks Miller Jr..



William L. Ross - November 24, 2019 at 04:48 PM



“ Banks was one of the best principals. I will never forget him coming to my oceanography class dressed up like a salt-water fisherman. He intrigued the students by sharing stories and teaching them about fly fishing. He was a great man and I am thankful to have had the opportunity to be part of his Alexander family. We will all miss him but remember great times. Lynn and Wallace Howard

Lynn Howard - November 24, 2019 at 11:00 AM



“ Mr Miller was an awesome man who meant so much to all the kids at H'ville Elementary. He was also a great and caring neighbor to our family always lending a hand when needed. Special thanks to Sara and him for being there for my parents as they got older. I will always remember his kindness. He will be missed by so many.

Brenda Kerr Honeycutt

Brenda Kerr Honeycutt - November 24, 2019 at 08:56 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of William Banks Miller Jr..



November 23, 2019 at 09:47 PM