



Gary Virgil Miller

November 28, 1942 - November 14, 2018

First and foremost, as a follower of Jesus Christ, Gary Miller believed in and was a proponent of the Gospel message. Only through repentance and faith can one be saved from sin. “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph. 2:8-9) Also, once saved, you cannot lose that salvation and are secure in Christ. Jesus said, “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.” (John 6:39)

Born in Los Angeles in 1942, Gary was raised by both his mother and grandmother the first years of his life as his father was serving in the Army during World War II as a paratrooper with the 101st. Growing up in Downey, Gary had four siblings and his posse of friends, known as the Springer Street Gang, who often took to their street to play baseball, football, and occasionally get into mischief. Later moving to West Covina in his high school years, Gary went on to study at Azusa Pacific University and played on the baseball team. He served in Vietnam in the Navy, being first stationed in Da Nang and later San Diego and Hawaii. In 1974 he would meet his wife Jennifer and they would be married in 1976.

As husband to Jennifer and father to Christopher and Jeffrey, Gary had the special Christian gift of encouragement. Whatever goals or aspirations his family had, Gary always supported them. Often, he would even have “outside the box” ideas as to how to go about achieving those goals. Even when only the negative aspects of something could be seen, he could turn those on their head and help you see the positive. “There was always more than one way to skin a cat.”

His love and understanding for his family, no matter the circumstance, was always felt. Also, his generosity of spirit was unsurpassed, not only to his family, but also to friends. Indeed, to all who knew him, he is still described as one of the nicest men they’ve ever met. Not to mention, he loved having a good time, which usually simply meant grabbing a meal or a cup of coffee and enjoying one another’s company.

Professionally, as a special education teacher for 13 years, Gary's patience with his special needs students was unparalleled. From those with severe autism to Down syndrome, Gary created curriculum designed to meet the unique needs of each specific student, challenging them to be their best. He firmly believed that all his students could not only learn, but become contributing members of society.

Politically, Gary had a passion for public service. As an advocate for others, his desire was always for the betterment of those underrepresented. He ran for office 25 times over the course of 42 years in both LA and Orange counties. He ran for both state and local offices; he even ran for governor of California! He served as West Covina City Councilman for 5 ½ years and served on the Mt. Sac Board of Trustees for 8 years, serving twice as President. He loved campaigning, especially meeting others and learning of their concerns. As a Christian, he thought it was important that Christians engage society, not sit on the sidelines. He believed that the love of Christ could and should be displayed not just in Washington, but also on a school board or city council.

In terms of volunteer work, Gary served his local church in several capacities, including children's ministry, and supported Advocates for Faith and Freedom, a non-profit group that legally protects Christians' rights in the workplace and school.

A champion and friend to all who knew and loved him, Gary will be missed. For now, he is in heaven with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And for those who have embraced the Gospel and also call Jesus Lord, there is full assurance that we will be united again. Below are the lyrics to Gary's favorite hymn. In the midst of whatever life brings, the soul that loves God can sing "How great thou art".

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus:

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.

When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on a Cross, my burdens gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Cemetery

Miramar National Cemetery

5795 Nobel Drive

San Diego, CA, 92122

Events

DEC 3 Graveside Service 11:30AM

3

Miramar National Cemetery

5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego, CA, US, 92122

DEC 3 Gathering 12:30PM

3

Casa De Bandini

1901 Calle Barcelona, Carlsbad, CA, US, 92009

Comments



“ Gary Miller was laid to rest at Miramar National Cemetery on December 3rd. It was a clear and beautiful day. M-18's from nearby Miramar base flew overhead, occasionally causing a brief pause in the proceedings. A horse-drawn hearse conveyed him to the gazebo site where the actual ceremony took place. Taps was played by two members of the Navy and the ceremonial folding of the American flag followed. There were about 40 people in attendance.

Following the eulogy by Pastor Ryan Day of Revolve Bible Church, Krysten Snyder of Compass Bible Church Tustin sang “How Great Thou Art”. After the ceremony, those who could join went to Casa de Bandini in Carlsbad. It was a wonderful time of food and fellowship, which is exactly what Gary would have wanted.

Below are some highlights from Gary's eulogy and please see his obituary for further info about his incredible life.

Eulogy Highlights

“For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” (2 Corinthians 5:1)

Gary Miller is indeed with His Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. No longer in the “earthly tent” that was his body, he is “in the heavens”. Nothing was more important to Gary than that God was given glory and that the Gospel was preached. In fact, it was his wish, and the wish of his family, that even now on this day the Gospel be conveyed.

As all are sinners, we all fall short of the glory of God. “There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one”. (Romans 3:10-12)

Because of our sinful condition, we cannot earn or merit eternal life. Therefore, God Himself had to reconcile us to Himself through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus, being both God and a man, came into this world and lived the perfect, sinless life we could never live. Given that He was perfect, He was also the perfect sacrifice for sin, bearing our sins on the cross. “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” (John 14:6) The promise is “...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9) For those who repent, or turn, from their sins and trust in Jesus Christ for their salvation, they will be saved. Even today, this day, you too can be saved! Gary is with His savior and it would be his heartfelt desire, that you would one day be with Him as well.

Chris Miller - December 28, 2018 at 07:08 PM



“ Gary Miller was a constant encouragement to me in every interaction I ever had with him. Even now thinking back on him, I can picture his ear to ear smile and wonderful laugh. My heart goes out to the Jennifer, Chris, and the entire Miller family for their loss, but I rejoice with them knowing that the Father and Redeemer has brought a faithful son back home to them. “Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of one of his saints” (Psalm 116:15).

cory marsh - December 07, 2018 at 05:37 PM



“ Gary Miller was one of the nicest men I have ever met, when I think of the wonderful times we had visiting, there was always great conversation and good laughs! I remember that Gary always had a smile on his face, what a great example of joy and happiness! I always looked forward to seeing Gary and his sweet family every time I made the trip to California. The Miller’s will always have a special place in my heart as they have always been very kind and loving to me and my husband but especially when my husband was far away from his family they treated him like one of their own. Sending love to the Miller family, until we meet again.



Marie Lopez-Reyes - December 05, 2018 at 11:10 PM



“ While living in Malibu, nearly 20 years ago, I was fortunate enough to spend some time with three great fellows: Terrence Dowdel, Steven Mahoney, and Chris Miller. But through Chris I became close to a family that became, in every way, part of my own.

I was fortunate enough to get to know Gary and the rest of Chris' family over these years.

Gary was supportive - not only of his son but also of his son's and his family's friends. It was evident to me that the spirit of charity and kindness that flowed through the Miller family had strong roots in the faith each of its family members shared but also in the example Gary set for all of them.

Gary and I became friends too: he was always sympathetic during challenging times and was there to celebrate one's triumphs. In the hyper-competitive and self-focused world we live in, Gary stood out as an example of something better we should all aspire to be.

Gary and I also became friends through two common experiences: service in the military and service in the political arena.

Although we served in the Armed Forces at different times we both experienced membership in a fraternity only those who join it can fully understand. More importantly, we both shared an independent streak that made that service a bit more interesting! Gary's stories about his time in the Navy will remain among the most memorable and humorous I've ever heard and I will always admire the wit and intellect that fueled them. In many ways, Gary reminded me of Sir T.E. Lawrence's quote: "I cannot fiddle, but I can make a great state from a little city... Themistocles, sir."

Ultimately, we connected most thanks to our political interests: we both shared conservative values and had both put sweat equity in the Republican Party. At one point, Gary served in the city council in West Covina Eventually, I'd find an opportunity to serve in a similar capacity that has often reminded me of Gary's own public service.

Gary lived a life of grace, dignity, and care and respect for others. He was an exceptionally charitable person. In his family we will continue seeing the power of these traits. What a gift!

Eduardo Lopez-Reyes - December 05, 2018 at 12:39 PM



“ Gary and Jennifer Miller were our neighbors for over 18 years. Our children and their children grew up together. I remember Gary as being a great neighbor and we enjoyed many family get-together's with the Miller family and our other neighbors. Gary was a great man in my eyes and I will always remember his political ambitions. He was a great West Covina City Councilman for a number of years. I remember long card parties that lasted until the morning hours playing Liverpool Rummy, Skip-Bo, or UNO at our house with our other neighbors and Jennifer and Gary. He would show up at our door and say, "Is the Coffee ready yet?" He was always interested in talking about the Educational System and he was a Mount San Antonio College Trustee for a time. He was always deeply religious and we know that he is with the Lord and also with our other Neighbors Tony and Jerry...Rest In Peace, Gary Miller

Stephen Jenkins - November 30, 2018 at 03:19 PM



“ I had the privilege of working with Gary at Marshall Fundamental School in Pasadena in the mid to late 90's. He was always friendly to faculty and students alike. He always offered to lend a hand whenever you needed help. i coached the track and Cross Country teams and he always said he would help with anything he could for the team's activities. I offer my prayers and condolences. Rest in Peace Gary and go with God.

Sam Simmons

Samuel H. Simmons - November 26, 2018 at 07:32 PM



“ We had fun playing Mexican train. He always had a nice smile on his face and he was fun to be with.

Tom and Karen Taylor - November 26, 2018 at 05:33 PM