



Mr. Duane Franklin Miller

July 11, 1947 - June 20, 2022

MILLER, Mr. Duane Franklin - Age 74, passed away Monday, June 20, 2022, in Georgia. Visitation and family hour 9:00 AM Monday, July 11, 2022, at Word of Life Christian Church, 460 W. Atherton Rd., with Celebration of Life Ceremony commencing at 10:00 AM Pastor George Wilkinson officiating. Family and friends will assemble at the church 9:00 AM Monday. Mr. Miller will lie in state at Word of Life Christian Church and may be viewed during the family hour only.

Duane Franklin Miller was born July 11, 1947, in Flint, Michigan. The first child of Jacob Franklin Miller and Audrey (Blassingame) Harmon. He was a graduate of Flint Southwestern High School class of 1965. During high school years, he was the quarterback/captain of the football team and a track & field state champion. Duane started college at Northwood University, where he played college football as a quarterback. He transferred to Western Michigan University (WMU) where he later became a member of the Epsilon Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc. and served as Dean of Pledges. While attending WMU, he was elected the first African-American Student Body President. Duane graduated from WMU as a Marketing major with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

After completing his degree, Duane was drafted into the United States Army and served two and a half years during the Vietnam War, prior to receiving an

honorable discharge.

Duane started his career with General Motors Corporation (GM) in 1970 and in 1976 he became one of the youngest executives in the history of the company. During his career, he went back to school and attended the University of California-Berkeley where he completed training and received an Executive Management degree. After 38 years and several positions, Duane retired as GM's Global Executive Director of GM Parts and Services.

After his GM retirement, the focus was on giving back to his hometown of Flint. He served as the City Manager under interim Mayor Mike Brown, until a new mayor was elected. He then went to work as the Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer for the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Throughout his life, Duane served on multiple boards including Motor Parts of America, Inc, McLaren Regional Medical Center, United Way of Genesee and Lapeer Counties (President). He also served on several committees - Michigan Governor Rick Snyder's Task Force, Automotive Association, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Flint, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flint & Genesee County. Duane received a number of outstanding leadership awards over the years, his most prized were The Dale Earnhardt Award and The Rosa Parks award from Vernon Chapel AME (Flint, MI).

Duane loved his family, traveling, and playing golf as a Warwick Hills member. He left Michigan and moved to Las Vegas, after leaving the Chamber. Duane leaves to cherish his memory: Wife of 47-years Diane Miller, Daughters Audra Miller and Tiffany Miller-Smyrna, GA, Son DeAndre Jones-Lansing, MI, Granddaughter, DeOnna Jones-Flint, MI, and three Great-Grandchildren; Siblings - Lavern Miller-Bodrum, Turkey, Steven Harmon-Flint, MI, Edna (Antheaus) Lige-Detroit, MI.; In-laws: Cheryl Dixon, Gregory (Justina Lockley)

Miller, Dr. Anthony (Mina Felfeli) Miller, Phillip (Joan Bullock) Miller, and Steven Miller. Aunt: Shirley Blassingame-Flint MI, Cousins: Maxine Hill-Flushing, MI, Jackie Gray Arlington, TX; Sister-in-love: Sweetie Vickers and numerous family members and dear friends.

Duane was preceded in death by Jacob Franklin Miller-Father, Audrey (Blassingame) Harmon-Mother, Edward O. Harmon-Step-Father, Eugene Miller-Father-in-law, Donna Miller-Mother-in-law, Berry Blassingame-Grandfather, Edna Blassingame-Lovett-Grandmother, Perry Lovett-Step Grandfather, Arlene Lovett-Step Grandmother, Barry Blassingame Jr-Uncle, Dorothy Ferguson-Aunt, Katie Harper-Aunt, David T. Miller-Brother, Dennis Harmon-Brother, Theodore Chandler-Step Brother.

In Lieu of Flowers donations can be sent to:
St Jude Children's Research Hospital
American Cancer Society
The Foundation for Mott Community College

Masks are required for all attendees

Services can be live streamed at:
https://youtube.com/channel/UCse0yJS5_m97KgbecbwYO1w

Previous Events

Visitation & Family Hour

JUL 11. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Word of Life Christian Church
460 W. Atherton Road
Flint, MI 48507

Celebration of Life Service

JUL 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

Word of Life Christian Church
460 W. Atherton Road
Flint, MI 48507

Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home - June 27, 2022 at 10:05 AM

LE

My condolences to the family I will miss you and the kindness you show to Lee when he came to Vegas

Linda English - June 28, 2022 at 10:16 AM

DM

I met Duane through my business. I was an ACDelco Distributor. I still have the ACDelco leather jacket he gave to me. He always took care of my company. If he was not there ACDelco would have let me go years before. If Duane had been there it would never have happened. We played golf together many times over the years in different states. My heart goes out to his family.

David Mike

David Mike - June 28, 2022 at 12:09 PM

VK

Duane and I have been friends since kindergarten, a true friend to me. No more pain and suffering, .Heaven has gained a true angel..God Bless you. We'll all miss you 🥹. Condolences to Diane and the rest of the family. 🙏🌹👉👤🍫🥹

Vivian Kelley - June 28, 2022 at 03:19 PM



My sincere and heartfelt condolences to the entire family.

Ceres Simpson Pennington - July 07, 2022 at 03:25 PM

FW

Duane was one in a million, a good guy, blessings to the family, my prayers go out for you. His spirit lives on in a better place without sorrow and pain. He will be missed. Florence Elaine Waters

F. Elaine Waters - July 11, 2022 at 12:15 PM



“ *Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *Cathryn Williams Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Cathryn Williams Sanders - July 12, 2022 at 05:53 PM



“ *My sincerest condolences to the Miller family. I am so grateful for his visible example of excellence as a business and community leader. This example has forever impacted my life and the life of my children. A simple game like basketball afforded me the opportunity to know the Miller family and ultimately resulted in paying my way through school and has landed me as an executive at P&G. None of this happens without Mr. Miller's investment in me. Thank you. It's a simple phrase but none other can express my sincerest gratitude. May you rest in Glory knowing that we all are equipped to carry your legacy forward.*

Marchoe Northern - July 11, 2022 at 09:11 PM

AA

“ *Alecia Simmons Moore And Alphies sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Alecia Simmons Moore and Alphies - July 11, 2022 at 01:30 PM

JY

“ *Jean Yee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Jean Yee - July 11, 2022 at 11:40 AM

JS

“ *I worked with Duane at GM Service Parts. He was a terrific fellow and colleague, truly a force to be reckoned with on the job. Knew the business but was fair in his dealings with others. A devoted family man, and very much given to giving back to the community. I loved his wit, and the twinkle in his eyes when he smiled. He was a joy to know, and to learn from. John Smith*

John Smith - July 11, 2022 at 11:25 AM

SM

“ *What an incredible Man Duane Miller was. He was a Big Brother and Mentor to us all. He would all was be available to give the best advice to his late Brother Dennis Harmon R.I.P and all of us. A real Giant and a Gentleman at the same time. You will be missed Duane, and we will continue to pray for your entire family in these Difficult times. May you REST IN POWER My Brother. Amen* 🙏🏻🏈🏆

Steven Metcalf - July 11, 2022 at 09:36 AM

BR

“ *Bob Rawls lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Bob Rawls - July 11, 2022 at 12:27 AM

MM

“ *Maxine Murray lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Maxine Murray - July 10, 2022 at 11:16 AM



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller.*



July 08, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller.*



July 08, 2022 at 04:48 PM



“ *James & Sharon Owensby (Arizona) lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



James & Sharon Owensby (Arizona) - July 07, 2022 at 05:45 PM



“ *Heartfelt condolences to Diane and the family!*



Angela Reed - July 07, 2022 at 01:40 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller.*



July 06, 2022 at 10:21 AM

KG

“ *Kathy Galloway lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Kathy Galloway - July 04, 2022 at 05:11 PM

HB

“ *Sending my prayers for Duane Miller family and friends. He was a childhood friend, a great person who will be missed.*



Helen Highgate Brown - July 04, 2022 at 02:38 PM

ML

“ *I met Duane very early in my career at General Motors. I was a recent college graduate and Duane was already on a very fast track to upper management. Even then, despite the steep curve he would rapidly climb, Duane took the time, energy and effort to mentor a young kid from Detroit's east side.*

Over the next forty plus years, I would continue to regard Duane as a leader, mentor and most importantly, a dear friend. I was truly blessed to have Duane in my life. Rest in peace, my friend!

To Diane and the entire Miller family, Shirley and I offer our most heartfelt sympathy!

Mike Lewis

Michael Lewis - July 04, 2022 at 12:57 PM

PJ

“ Thank you, Duane, for your compassion, care and wise counsel all those years at GM. My best boss ever.

Paul Johnson - July 04, 2022 at 10:00 AM

CV

“ Carol VanBuren lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



Carol VanBuren - July 03, 2022 at 07:19 PM

GS

“ I was fortunate to work with Duane in the community, he loved his hometown of Flint and he and Diane worked and gave generously to the community. As many have attested, he was generous with his advice, all you had to do is listen. I'm so thankful for the many calls he took, the questions he fielded, the questions he asked of me that made me better, he was truly a leader, a teacher, a mentor, a friend, and blessing. Duane led by example outside his home, but home was where his heart was, and I send my sincerest condolences to his family who will miss his daily presence, smile, laugh, advice, and love. Thank God for a legacy of a life well lived, and memories to last forever.



Gloria Scruggs - July 03, 2022 at 04:00 PM

RK

“ *Russell & Diane Kirksey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Russell & Diane Kirksey - July 03, 2022 at 02:28 PM

CJ

“ *Colleen Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Colleen Jenkins - July 02, 2022 at 10:34 AM

NG

“ *Nancy Grubba lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Nancy Grubba - July 01, 2022 at 10:21 PM

DC

“ *Diane (Johnson) Crowder lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Diane (Johnson) Crowder - July 01, 2022 at 12:19 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller.*



June 30, 2022 at 07:11 AM



“ *Ernelle Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Ernelle Taylor - June 29, 2022 at 10:55 AM



“ *Rudy And Geneva Ward lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Rudy and Geneva Ward - June 29, 2022 at 09:41 AM



“ *Betty Tipper lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Betty Tipper - June 29, 2022 at 09:03 AM

YS

“ *My sincere Condolences to the family. Duane fought a good fight. He will truly be missed. RIH my Friend.*



Yolanda Shumpert - June 28, 2022 at 10:06 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller.*



June 28, 2022 at 10:00 PM

BK

“ *My condolences to the family. Duane and I grew up together and remained friends to this day. Rest in Heavenly Peace my childhood friend.💙*



Brenda Kimble - June 28, 2022 at 08:42 PM

SP

“ *Sheila Phillips lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Sheila Phillips - June 28, 2022 at 08:21 PM

LS

“ *Larry Williams Sr lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Larry Williams Sr - June 28, 2022 at 06:16 PM

MM

“ *To my family I send prayers and strength to all. Duane will be missed.*



Mary Morris - June 28, 2022 at 05:38 PM

VK

“ *Vivian Kelley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Vivian Kelley - June 28, 2022 at 03:07 PM

AK

“ *April Kelley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



April Kelley - June 28, 2022 at 03:05 PM

YS

“ You fought a good fight my friend. You will be missed.
RIH



Yolanda Shumpert - June 28, 2022 at 03:04 PM

RM

“ Rev. Phyllis McCree lit a candle in memory of
Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



Rev. Phyllis McCree - June 28, 2022 at 02:58 PM

MD

“ Mary Dantzler-Grace lit a candle in memory of
Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



Mary Dantzler-Grace - June 28, 2022 at 12:38 PM

TB

“ Tracie Brady lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Duane Franklin Miller



Tracie Brady - June 28, 2022 at 12:02 PM

DC

“ Duane Miller was a great man and his passing greatly saddens me. I am so sorry for his family’s loss.

I first met Duane at a GM training facility where we chatted in an empty classroom. Duane headed up a plus-billion-dollar GM division called AC Delco and I was sure I could help him. We talked for over an hour and I walked away shaking my head ... knowing that this man’s brilliance, intuition, common-sense, and sense of humanity made me feel small. Compared to Duane, I was a gnat.

Rather than be intimidated by Duane, I decided to make him a friend and learn what I could. We became very close. Much of the time I simply observed this marvel of a human being. His knowledge of GM’s businesses was prodigious. This, coupled with his appetite for change and innovation, made him incredibly unique.

We talked all the time back then. We dived deep into our weaknesses; perhaps for different reasons. Duane was my hero and was beyond me – I have a thing about arrogance, and it would have been incredibly arrogant for me to project myself as an equal to Duane Miller.

Duane taught me a lot about family – so much so that when I finally slowed down, I reverted my attention back to my family and became somewhat of a hermit. Diane was his goddess, and his gorgeous children were his finest accomplishments. He shared his loves, and his guilts, with me over dinners and odd moments. We talked about life.

When working with Duane I frequently stayed with him and Diane at their house. This was an incredible act of kindness that I still reflect upon almost daily. Why me? Pondering this over the decades provided the ultimate answer of who Duane Miller really was. A profoundly good man.

Love to all his family,

David Carlisle

David Carlisle - June 28, 2022 at 11:45 AM

KA

“ *We fondly remember our evening in Los Angeles with Duane, Diane, and Wanda along with the many instances over the years that our families got together. Duane will be missed by us and we send you our love and condolences.*



Kay, Alexander, and Sarah Sanders-Messmann

Kay & Alexander - June 28, 2022 at 11:43 AM

BB

“ *Berton and Brandee Brown purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller.*



Berton and Brandee Brown - June 28, 2022 at 11:34 AM

SF

“ *Sharon Fleming lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Sharon Fleming - June 28, 2022 at 10:50 AM

CR

“ Cynthia Reeves lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



Cynthia Reeves - June 28, 2022 at 10:30 AM



“ Brenda Dilworth lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



Brenda Dilworth - June 28, 2022 at 10:19 AM

FG

“ Fredricka “Ricky” Gist lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



Fredricka “Ricky” Gist - June 28, 2022 at 10:05 AM

 Delores Keith

“ Delores Keith sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



Delores Keith - June 28, 2022 at 09:37 AM

AD

“ *My sincerest thoughts and condolences are with the entire family during their time of bereavement!* ”

AC Dumas - June 28, 2022 at 05:47 AM

MS

“ *Our condolences and prayers for the family. Duane was a special person and always supported us at work. He was also a friend. We are so sad to hear the news of his passing. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. May Duane RIP.* ”



Melody & Scott - June 27, 2022 at 11:00 PM

ME

“ *Duane was a special person and touched the lives of so many. He always supported me at work and I will be forever thankful. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. RIP Duane.* ”



Melody - June 27, 2022 at 10:12 PM

LR

“ *Lynn Blassingame Richmond lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller* ”



Lynn Blassingame Richmond - June 27, 2022 at 06:31 PM

DB

“ Rest In Peace Cuz, memories of you will be with us for years to come, you were so much to so many! Your smile made us smile & we were all so very proud of your many accomplishments that you made during your lifetime! You were loved and will always be remembered! My condolences go out to the Millers, Harmons & the Blassingame family.



Diane Blassingame - June 27, 2022 at 05:40 PM

JS

“ Only God in heaven knew the day and the hour Jesus cried for his friend Lazarus ... maybe tears are the medicine to heal the sad hearts ... worked for Duane for many years ... traveled with Duane for many years ... he was a friend that came into my life and stayed. Thank you, Jesus. Shack

Jim Shackelford - June 27, 2022 at 04:52 PM

KK

“ Kyle McCree & Camille Koger-McCree lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



Kyle McCree & Camille Koger-McCree - June 27, 2022 at 04:01 PM

RH

“ My Condolences, Love And Prayers To You Cousins. Duane Is Sleeping Peacefully Now. He's Going To Be Missed By So Many People Who Love Him. He Aches No More! He's Home In God's House. His Spirit Will Linger On To Be With Us Always In Our Hearts, Minds And Souls Forever, And The Memories Of Duane Miller Will Never Be Forgotten.



We Love You Duane
R.P.I.H Cousin
Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



THE HILL FAMILY 🙏🙏
HAROLD, JOE, RUTHI, RENEE & WILL

Ruthi Hill - June 27, 2022 at 03:23 PM

RM

“ Russell & Diane Miller lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



Russell & Diane Miller - June 27, 2022 at 02:52 PM

YT

“ Yvonne Tidwell sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



Yvonne Tidwell - June 27, 2022 at 02:12 PM

YT

“ Yvonne Tidwell sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



Yvonne Tidwell - June 27, 2022 at 02:12 PM

PV

“ Penny Vickers lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



Penny Vickers - June 27, 2022 at 02:09 PM

BW

“ Barbara Morris Wright lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller



Barbara Morris Wright - June 27, 2022 at 01:55 PM

LB

“ We will miss you so much Cuz.

Leroy Blassingame - June 27, 2022 at 11:35 AM

VN

“ *Veronica Nickens lit a candle in memory of Mr. Duane Franklin Miller*



Veronica Nickens - June 27, 2022 at 11:20 AM

JK

“ *Condolences and prayers for the Miller family.*



Julie Koger - June 27, 2022 at 10:28 AM