



## Donald G. Miller

June 17, 1938 - January 18, 2019

### Macomb Jurist, Aviator Don Miller Dies

Donald G. Miller, who served his state and nation as a judge and an Air Force officer, died Jan. 18, 2019. He was 80 years old.

Well known in aviation and legal circuits, Miller was the husband of Candice S. Miller, the former member of Congress who now serves as the Macomb County Public Works Commissioner.

Don Miller served as a Macomb County Circuit Court Judge from 1998 until his retirement in 2010. Miller became a judge after having served for seven years as a magistrate on the state Worker's Compensation Appellate Commission.

Miller was born June 17, 1938, in Grand Rapids. He had a life-long fascination with aviation, often drawing World War II-era fighter planes on his schoolwork in elementary school. He began flying at age 16 in a Piper J-3 Cub and earned his private pilot's license at age 17. He attended Michigan State University on an Air Force ROTC scholarship and then was commissioned as an Air Force officer in 1961, initially trained as a pilot of the F-102 Delta Dagger and later transitioning to the F-100 Super Sabre.

Miller's distinguished military career included service in Vietnam, flying with the 509th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, where he flew combat missions from Da Nang and Tan Son Nhut Air Bases, during the Vietnam War.

Following his service in Vietnam, Miller continued his service in the Michigan Air National Guard. He finished his military career at the rank of colonel after

serving as the commander of Selfridge Air National Guard Base and as director of operations for the 127th Tactical Fighter Wing at the base.

It was while serving as the commander of Selfridge, in Harrison Township, that he married the then-Harrison Township supervisor. Don and Candice Miller were married for 35 years and continued to live in Harrison Township throughout their marriage.

Miller retired from the military in 1988 to enter the legal profession.

Even after his retirement as a military pilot, Miller continue to fly, building and piloting his own aircraft. He and his home-built RV-8 were well known at Ray Community Airport and many other locations.

Celebration of Life gathering Monday, January 21st from 3:00 - 8:00pm at the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Rd., (north side of Hall Rd., 3 blocks east of Van Dyke), Utica. Memorial service Tuesday 10:00am at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Selfridge Military Air Museum, 27333 C Street, Bldg 1011, Selfridge ANGB, Mich., 48045; or the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 154, 18025 E. 15 Mile Road, Clinton Township, Mich., 48035.

Please share a memory with his family at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com)

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Memorial Gathering

JAN 21. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

### Memorial Service

JAN 22. 10:00 AM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home  
8459 Hall Road  
Utica, MI 48317  
(586) 731-2411  
utica@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Candice, you have my deepest sympathies with the lost of your dear husband. May you treasure all the good memories you shared with him, and may the God of all comfort, comfort you in your time of sorrow." Comfort your hearts and make you firm in every good deed and word" 2 Thessalonians 2:17

---

**L.ALERT** - January 26, 2019 at 11:36 AM



“ Candice

*I'm very sorry about the loss of your husband and glad to know you had so much time together. I will be praying for you and your family*

*Evan Pratt*

---

**Evan Pratt** - January 23, 2019 at 09:51 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald G. Miller.



---

January 22, 2019 at 02:54 PM



“ Garden Accent Stone - *"Wherever a Beautiful Soul..."* was purchased for the family of Donald G. Miller.



---

January 22, 2019 at 09:22 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Candice and the family during this difficult time. It was our honor and privilege to know Don personally and professionally and his legacy of honesty, integrity and service to his country and the public good will live on forever.

---

**John and Gail MacArthur** - January 21, 2019 at 03:19 PM



“ Dear Candice,

*My deepest sympathies to you on the death of your husband, Don! I remember the Honorable Donald G. Miller as exactly that, a man who served the Macomb County legal community and the public with honor and integrity. He treated attorneys and all those who appeared before him with respect and that is why those of us in the legal community so very much respected Don as a jurist! May your many fond memories of all the good times you had together bring you some comfort at this most difficult time!*

*Scott Bright*

---

**Scott Bright** - January 21, 2019 at 02:48 PM

JP

“ I always appreciated the way Judge Miller treated lawyers and litigants alike with dignity and respect in his courtroom. I also appreciated his dry sense of humor. I remember fishing with him and a group of friends on Lake Michigan and some of us were getting woozy with the large waves and nasty weather but Don was keeping everybody entertained with his wit. Needless to say he wasn't a bit seasick but he generously agreed that maybe we should head back in. Deepest sympathy to Candace and the family. Don will be greatly missed. Joe Puzzuoli

---

joe puzzuoli - January 21, 2019 at 11:59 AM

TM

“ The Harrison Township Board Members purchased the Glorious Grace Bouquet for the family of Donald G. Miller.



---

**The Harrison Township Board Members** - January 20, 2019 at 06:56 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donald G. Miller.



---

January 20, 2019 at 06:45 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald G. Miller.*



---

January 20, 2019 at 03:39 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Donald G. Miller.*



---

January 20, 2019 at 01:57 PM



“ *We will dearly miss Don Miller who some as myself fondly addressed as 'Colonel' or 'Judge'. Ever grateful are we for the friendship he and Candice extended us through the many years. Whether playing golf, flying, boating or discussing the law Donald Miller was a no nonsense person. Oh yeah, he sure knew how to have fun and certainly did but the dedication he exuded in his public service to our country and State of Michigan was inspirational. One of the neatest things shared with Don were a few moments in the garage as he explained building the RV-8 and the parts used to assemble the plane. It was truly overwhelming to me. Talk about a DIY guy. Don was awesome. Rest in Eternal Love and Peace our treasured Patriot. Cindy and I thank you for all of your service and will never forget you.*

---

**Robert T. Sacco** - January 20, 2019 at 03:50 AM

MD

“ Our deepest condolences to Judge Miller's family and to Candice Miller. I had the privilege and honor to serve as an assistant prosecutor in Judge Miller's circuit court. He was truly an amazing jurist, and officer and gentlemen, a mentor, a dedicated public servant, and an example to everyone to live life with purpose, joy, compassion and to strive for excellence in everything we do. He will be missed dearly, but his legacy will live on. Mary Jo Diegel

Mary Jo Diegel - January 19, 2019 at 10:59 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald G. Miller.



January 19, 2019 at 10:48 AM

SH

“ Dear Candice. I'm very sorry for the loss of your beloved husband. May God provide you comfort and strength in the days ahead. Keeping you in my thoughts and prayers.

Sandra Haroutunian

Sandra haroutunian - January 18, 2019 at 07:05 PM

DC

He will be missed. He always went out of his way to say hello and spend a few private minutes with a fellow veteran. Candy, so sorry for your loss, a great guy who found a great match and carried on in life. May good memories keep you in thoughts. Douglas M. Casamer

Douglas M. Casamer - January 18, 2019 at 07:37 PM

LF

*Our condolences to Candice and the Miller family. Knew, liked and respected Don for many years in the Guard. We celebrate his life and the privilege of knowing him. God bless him and your family. Lynn Forrest LTC (ret) and Judith Forrest LTC (ret)*

---

**Lynn J Forrest** - January 19, 2019 at 01:12 PM

RT

*I always looked forward to our Before Rotary Meetings on Thursday at Chrissies in Mt Clemens. Don had a great sense of humor. I will always remember him.*

*Bob Treoanier*

---

**Robert I Trepanier** - January 20, 2019 at 09:23 AM

SL

*I was privileged to know Judge Miller through the Mt. Clemens Rotary. He contributed much to the club, including his hilarious video presentation on building his plane. We were sorry when illness took him away from our meetings. I'll always be grateful to him helping me out with a legal emergency. And it was Don Miller -- not the usual suspect -- who "stole" my president's gavel (a Rotary tradition). He honored me with that gesture. Fly with the angels, now, Judge. Sarah E. Lee*

---

**Sarah Lee** - January 21, 2019 at 03:51 PM