



William "Bill" Miller

May 25, 1961 - September 18, 2024

William Robert "Bill" "Wild Bill" Miller, 63, Topeka, Kansas, larger than the world, a selfless man who never knew a stranger, passed from this life into the next, Wednesday, September 18, 2024.

Bill was born May 25, 1961, in Topeka to Alva L. Miller and Sondra Hafenstein, and was a 1979 graduate of Shawnee Heights High School. On April 16, 1988, Bill and Carol Sue Bailey were united in marriage enjoying 36 years together.

He worked in construction until he joined the Topeka Fire Department on December 14, 1996. Bill served on the Fire Department Honor Guard, a position that was dear to his heart, honoring the deceased and giving sincere support and care to their families. At Fire Department picnics he was always involved in the kids' games and took every opportunity through his work or just in general to participate in events and charities to help children in need. Bill retired as Captain at 7:00 a.m. February 24, 2018.

Bill was a member of the Sons of the American Legion and had great respect for those who serve, whether in the military, fire and police departments, or other first responders. He was an avid collector frequenting auctions and flea markets. He was a coffee aficionado with a sense of humor that could bring laughter to anyone. He was outrageous and loud but cared so deeply and

always put others first. His presence will be greatly missed.

Grateful to have shared his life are his beloved wife, Carol; children, Codi Scheef (Joshua) and Michael Warbritton (Melissa); grandchildren, Blaine, Autumn and Haley; his father, Alva Miller; his mother, Sondra Hafenstein (Herman); brother, Brad Miller (Cathy); stepbrothers, Michael and Ken Hafenstein; nephew, Thomas Byers (Alex); and nieces, Morgan Bessette (Shane) and Grace Kodas (Gunnar).

Funeral service will be 1:30 p.m. Saturday, September 28, at Mother Teresa of Calcutta Church, 2014 NW 46th Street, Topeka KS 66618.

Bill's funeral will be livestreamed on the funeral home Facebook page. You can follow this link, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063672125244>.

Memorial contributions may be made to Keystone Mental Health, which benefits Back the Badge and first responders, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

SEP **28**. 1:30 PM (CT)

Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church
2014 NW 46th Street
Topeka, KS 66618

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" Miller



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - September 26, 2024 at 05:32 PM



Great pictures of a great man.

Linda Steinbock-Badgley - September 28, 2024 at 03:50 PM

SH

“ Bill has held a special place in our families' hearts for over 20 years and will continue to for many years to come. May you all find the strength to get through the challenges ahead. All our Love, The Hay Family.

Scott Hay - September 28, 2024 at 05:22 PM

TA

“ Bill, you were the life of the fireman's picnic with your contagious smile and laugh. Our entire family enjoyed being around you. You will truly be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to your family and friends. ❤️🙏
Your friend's John and Tammy Aguilar

Tammy Aguilar - September 27, 2024 at 04:12 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Miller.



September 25, 2024 at 08:25 PM



“ Doug, Dale & Vannette Pausewang planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Miller.

Doug, Dale & Vannette Pausewang - September 25, 2024 at 08:25 PM



“ I've known Bill since I was born. Our fathers were firefighters together. We went through school together. Our parents played cards together. So many memories at the farm pond and all through life. Always happy to see him at the fireman's picnics. He even helped me get my father's retirement information from the fire department when my dad passed away last year. I hate that he is gone. He was a good guy and will be missed greatly. God bless his family and help them through this difficult time. RIP my friend.

Vannette Pausewang Shunk - September 25, 2024 at 08:16 PM

Jl

“ I've played bagpipes at a number of retired firefighters' funerals over the past 12 years or so. Much of the time, Bill was the honor guard member who called to see if I was available. He always made sure I knew exactly where to be and when I needed to play. He always made sure that I knew how much he appreciated having a piper at the service. His passion for serving in the Honor Guard and his commitment to his fellow firefighters could never be questioned.

The thing I will never forget was that he sent a plant to my family on hearing of my mom's passing. We were friendly, but we weren't best friends or anything like that. Nevertheless, he went to the time and trouble to have a plant sent. That will always be what I remember about him.

Jim - September 25, 2024 at 02:53 PM

DK

“ Sending our condolences to the Miller family. We are so sorry for your loss, such a great loss, but so many wonderful memories! Bill was such a wonderful and unforgettable man. With such a remarkable sense of humor and that smile. We knew him both for his work and personally and he will be greatly missed.
Retired PD Kris Kramer and Dawn

Dawn Kramer - September 25, 2024 at 11:42 AM

CS

“ Condley Strobel sent a virtual gift in memory of William "Bill" Miller



Condley strobel - September 25, 2024 at 02:49 AM

CS

*We appreciate all he did for dad grandpa great grandpa 🙏❤️🙏💙
🙏💙❤️🙏💙 leon condley he came and saw while he was sick.
He also visited at various different nursing home home 🏠 and va.he
did a nice job honor guard.when we wentto picnic he always talked to
us and our grandson.when tony was baby 🤱 he came over and saw
🤱🙏va our thoughts and prayers!
Rest inpeace*

Condley strobel - September 25, 2024 at 02:59 AM

SB

Had several contacts with Bill. He was a GOOD MAN.

Steve Banaka - September 26, 2024 at 09:42 PM

CK

*“ We know him from Genesis gym. He was always giving me hell for
going so hard and telling me to run a mile for him. He always talked
to my kiddos and always left with a smile on my face and full of
laughter after talking with him. His presence will be missed ❤️*

Casey and Michael Kanicki - September 24, 2024 at 10:41 PM

AE

*“ A1 Coin, Bullion & Estate purchased the Peaceful
White Lilies Basket for the family of William "Bill"
Miller.*



A1 Coin, Bullion & Estate - September 24, 2024 at 09:09 PM

AE

“ A1 Coin, Bullion & Estate planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Miller.

A1 Coin, Bullion & Estate - September 24, 2024 at 09:09 PM

TP

“ Wonderful memories of Bill and others serving when my dad Al Gooding passed away



Tammi Pierce - September 24, 2024 at 07:59 PM

SP

Beautiful pictures!! Tammi you're absolutely stunning. Nothing feels better than being a fireman's daughter.

Sandy Prchal - September 24, 2024 at 08:01 PM

TM

“ Bill was such a special man. Every time he came in to the city clinic he made me smile and laugh. He will be missed. Prayers for you all.

tammy mcdaniel - September 24, 2024 at 07:21 PM

KB

“ Our deepest condolences to Brad, Sondra, Alvie and the whole family. Bill was always a true friend to me. I don't think I knew a person as fun to be around then Bill. He really enjoyed life. We have truly lost a great guy. RIP Bill.

Kevin and Nancy Burton - September 24, 2024 at 06:33 PM

BR

“ My sister (Becky Rice-Petrusky) and myself (Sandy Rice-Prchal) are Shawnee Heights alumni as well but we both knew “Wild Bill” as Bill Miller, MC (Master of Ceremonies). Bill was in the elite group of the “Best of the Best” with the Topeka Fire Department. No disrespect to the young firefighters climbing the corporate ladder, but if you were fortunate enough to know Paul Packer, Bobb Rice (our amazing dad), Robert Sterbenz, Lee Reser and Alfred (Al) Gooding, to name just a few, these “men” were the TOP LEADERS of their rank with the Topeka Fire Department. When it was time for the annual fireman picnic, Bill proudly stood front and center and gave recognition to the distinguished retirees and gave the utmost respect to the deceased. Honestly, Bill wore many hats but the role as M.C. he took very seriously, and it showed. The greatest memory we have of Mr. Miller was at our father’s funeral (Bobb Rice) when Bill gave the “Last Call”. Again, Bill Miller was the M.C. and gave an outstanding farewell as he preceded to give the last alarm when he realized he forgot his readers and made an announcement to the congregation if anyone had a pair of “cheaters” he could borrow to finish his monologue. My sister (Becky Rice) stood up and gave her bright, red granny readers for Bill to use. The entire church broke out in laughter. Bill had a mission, and he certainly delivered his speech, on queue and with a smile. The Topeka Fire Department lost a phenomenal man. His quick wits and spectacular smile will be greatly missed by all who adored him. Our condolences go to his beloved wife and family. You’re in our thoughts and prayers during this time. The Rice Girls (Becky Petrusky & Sandy Prchal)



Becky & Sandy Rice - September 24, 2024 at 04:25 PM

TP

I couldn't have said it better, Sandy! What a guy Bill was that will always be fondly remembered serving his fellow firefighters!!

Tammi Pierce - September 24, 2024 at 08:03 PM

BC

“ *Sondra & Family, I have known Wild Bill for many years. Always loved seeing him at the Scarecrows Games, our faces painted up. He will be missed .He was a Great Guy!! Thinking of you all at your time of need. God Bless you All. He is now looking down with his Giant Smile and Laughing.*
Bruce Couch

Bruce Couch - September 24, 2024 at 04:18 PM

BE

“ *Sorry for your loss sending prayers*

bertha - September 24, 2024 at 02:21 PM

RF

“ *To the Miller Family,*

Sorry for your loss

Richard & Terie Jolly & Family - September 24, 2024 at 01:25 PM

DP

“ *Bill's dad and mine where fireman. I've known Bill since we were 5 yrs old. Went through school together. Many fireman picnics. Fishing, swimming and camping at his farm pond. Cub scout Fishing tournaments at the pond. Many stories. Teenagers party at the pond. Bond fires, swimming, use to park cars in circle, turn on headlights play fresbie at 2 in the morning. Wild Bill at the hockey games. Lots of memories. God bless*

Dale Pausewang - September 24, 2024 at 12:19 PM

KL

“ Bill will be remembered for his “larger than life” personality, smile, and kindness... Sending up prayers of peace for Bill’s family. I will be thinking of you. 🤍🙏

Kim, Landon, Tuckyr & Beckim Neel Long - September 24, 2024 at 12:13 PM

RB

“ Billy was best know for his ongoing personality. Fond memories of him playing slow pitch softball on the team his brother and I started in 1978. Still can hear him yelling “No hat, no bat”! Miss you buddy.

Rick Bone - September 24, 2024 at 11:11 AM

BR

“ Sondra and family, I am so sorry to hear about Bill passing away. I send my sympathy to each of you!!

Betty Reser - September 24, 2024 at 11:10 AM

AH

“ RIP- Capt. Wild, but I know you won't. You will be up there joining our fallen brothers and sisters in the Black Hat society. Teaching them how to drink good coffee, fry potatoes in cast iron and NEVER wash it with soap. I'll meet you there for our next tour of duty together. Love you Brother.

Andy

Andrew Hales - September 24, 2024 at 10:51 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Miller.*



September 24, 2024 at 10:27 AM



“ *Watched Bill grow up as live around the corner. Prayers for all the family.*

Millie Conger - September 24, 2024 at 09:56 AM



“ *RIP Bill — I will miss seeing you at the auctions....your passion for neat old things from the past will be missed!*

Kathy Zwygart Simpson - September 24, 2024 at 09:49 AM



“ *Erin W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Miller.*

Erin W. - September 24, 2024 at 09:49 AM



“ *Bill was A great Friend didnt get to serve with him he came on after I retired in 92 but love the way he could laugh and have fun and the tuesdays at no. 5s drinking coffe sorry Donna and I won't be at the service we will be out of town . Deen and Donna Satterlee*

deen satterlee - September 24, 2024 at 09:11 AM

JM

“ I got to know "Wild Bill" as Santa Claus at the Firefighter Christmas parties at KNI. He was awesome in that role. When our paths crossed at Four Corners Steakhouse or Antique Shop, it was never long enough to totally catch up but always involved a good hug and some laughter. Rest easy my friend, you will be missed.
Julie McNickle

Julie McNickle - September 24, 2024 at 01:00 AM

TG

“ William was a wonderful person i didn't know William im sending my symphaty to the family of bill miller may William rest in peace 🙏💜
□ terry I glenn

Terry Glenn - September 23, 2024 at 10:40 PM

MG

“ I really enjoyed working with Bill on calls. He will be missed

Mary Glover - September 23, 2024 at 09:25 PM

JM

“ We are very sorry to learn Bill has passed away. We always enjoyed being with Bill. All of Bill's family are in our thoughts and hearts.
Jerry and Jane Meens

Jerry and Jane Meens - September 23, 2024 at 08:40 PM

GD

“ I remember him and his daughter Codi from the Scarecrow hockey games and it was awesome seeing him get so involved with it and having that cow bell.. Meeting them was the best part of my life and I will never forget him

Genna Dowding - September 23, 2024 at 06:55 PM

MT

“ Bill was a good friend, I will always remember his laugh, TFD Vs PD in hockey with his eight foot hockey stick he made out of plywood, enjoyed working with him. Rip buddy, I will miss you! Mike Thompson

mike Thompson - September 23, 2024 at 06:25 PM

DT

“ Bill was a big man with a huge heart. I just can't get the picture out of my head of him feeding the raccoons lemon cookies on their back porch. He will be missed

Doris Terhune - September 23, 2024 at 05:45 PM

RP

One of those students that was unforgettable...in a good fun always friendly sort of way! Once when the antique fire truck was sitting in front of his fire station, I stopped with my family to visit him. He showed us both the station and the fire truck...and took us for a ride around the block!!!

RIP Bill Miller!!! ❤️👍❤️👍❤️👍

Ron Peterson - September 24, 2024 at 11:42 AM

TD

Bill will be missed by all those who knew him. I loved working calls with him when I was on PD and will always remember his dip into Lake Shawnee for the Polar Bear Plunge, and Bill's reason for doing it. Not to mention the explanation of the Marks A Lot marker on a call, I still tell that story.

My condolences to his family and to all his brothers/sisters at TFD.

RIP Sir, you have earned it.

Tony Darr - September 24, 2024 at 01:47 PM

MU

Many fond memories of Bill. Always had a big smile and laugh which would brighten your day, even on the bad ones. He was such a caring and devoted man. RIP Bill, you have earned it.

Marguerite Underhill - September 24, 2024 at 01:54 PM

JR

So sorry to hear of neighbor Bills passing. Are thoughts and prayers will be with you Carol and family during this sad time.. RIP Bill..

Janice Roberts - September 24, 2024 at 03:40 PM

JT

Bill always made me smile. When I arrived on a call he would always run up to my car and wanted to know if he could pet my dog! Such a compassionate and caring soul for everyone! God speed sir! Sending much peace and comfort to his family!

Julie Hoffman, retired TPD - September 26, 2024 at 08:31 AM

GB

To Sondra, Herman, Brad and your entire family: We want to send our heartfelt sympathy to you. We only met Bill once and loved his zest for life and fun personality. We are so sorry to hear that your son and brother died. We hope you find peace and comfort in this difficult time. And, we send our love to you from Idaho - Bea and Gary

Gary and Bea - September 28, 2024 at 02:57 PM