



Dr. Eldon Miller

October 31, 1940 - September 7, 2017

Dr. Eldon Lynn Miller

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford

Eldon Lynn Miller died September 7, 2017, in Oxford, MS. Eldon was born October 31, 1940, in Fruita, CO, to June Babcock Miller and Ernest Miller. He attended Fruita High School and graduated in 1958. Upon graduating, he was offered several baseball and football scholarships, including a scholarship to play quarterback at BYU, but baseball was his passion. He elected to attend Mesa State College in Grand Junction, CO, where he was a catcher. As a sophomore he was named to the NJCAA Baseball All-American first team. During the National Junior College Championship, he batted .600, and was voted the most likely to succeed in the major leagues.

Eldon was offered a contract with the Arizona Cardinals after a tryout, and offered a scholarship to play baseball for the University of Alabama. He accepted the scholarship to the University of Alabama, where he was a catcher for the Crimson Tide during 1959 and 1960. He was once again an All-American. Eldon graduated with a bachelor's degree in Math in 1962. He signed a contract to play professional baseball with the Cleveland Indian's Triple A team in Selma, AL. He played with Lou Piniella, and many other baseball greats. He was invited to Spring Training with the with Indians' major league team, but decided to further pursue his education after being

diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.

Eldon returned to the University of Alabama and earned his PhD in Mathematics in 1968. After receiving his PhD, he accepted a faculty position with The University of Mississippi as a mathematics professor. He was a professor in the Ole Miss Math Department for over 35 years. He loved mentoring his students and was chosen to be Humanities Professor of the Year in 1990. He served as Chairman of the math department on three occasions, but always refused to accept the position permanently, as he loved his free time as well.

While teaching at Ole Miss, Eldon actively participated with events in the Oxford community and The University. He played semi-pro baseball with the Oxford A's, coached baseball in the Oxford Parks System, served as the president of the PTA, acted in plays with the community theater, and played on a variety of intramural sports teams at The University. He also made time to be active in the lives of his 5 children.

While playing on one of his favorite intramural teams, the Sybarites, a teammate asked Eldon to take in his two Labrador Retrievers. This was the beginning of a new chapter for Eldon, who became enthusiastic about training and breeding Labrador Retrievers. He often was accompanied by his 8 dogs on his trips around town and campus. Every morning (except Sunday) he ate breakfast at The Beacon, and he often brought the dogs with him! They would sit in the back of his SUV with the tailgate open, and everyone who passed stopped to visit with them. They never got out of the SUV, waiting instead for Eldon to come out and feed them each a bite of biscuit.

Eldon was preceded in death by his wife, Kitty Hubbard Miller, and his parents. He is survived by his five children: Gary Eldon Miller (Karen) of Eads, TN, James Douglas Miller of Mobile, AL, Tamela Ann Miller of Boise, ID,

Tonya Miller Dalton (Jason) of Eutaw, AL, and Bradley Curtis Miller, of Last Chance, ID, and 11 grandchildren.

There will be a visitation from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., followed by service at 10:30 a.m., at Coleman Funeral Home on September 23, 2017, at 10:30. Following will be a gathering of family and friends in the back room of The Beacon Restaurant. His remains will be interred with Kitty Hubbard Miller in Pontotoc, MS.

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation in Eldon Miller's name to Juvenile Diabetes Research Funding and Advocacy at JDRF.org

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **23.** 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford
601 Commerce Parkway
Oxford, MS 38655
(662) 234-3900
info@colemanfuneralhome.com
<https://www.colemanfuneralhome.com/>

Memorial Service

SEP **23.** 10:30 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Eldon Miller



Coleman Funeral Home - September 19, 2017 at 05:57 PM

MB

“ I am saddened to find out this news recently. After I moved away from Oxford in 1992, I lost touch with many people. Eldon was very special to me, as a friend and companion for nearly 5 years while I lived in Oxford and completed my master's degree. I learned much from him about having a positive attitude, avoiding drama, and just enjoying life day by day. He was kind , patient, and wise. I wish I had been able to pay my condolences sooner. He will be dearly missed.

Mechelle Simmons Boone - November 02, 2019 at 04:04 AM



Hazel
Shedd

“ I am late to learn of Eldon Miller's passing. As another person wrote, he was a very talented and kind instructor of mathematics. Many others joined me in profiting from his teaching and going into the field of mathematics as a profession. I was one of his students early in his teaching career at Ole Miss. I remember arriving at a final exam about thirty minutes late one time and Dr. Miller leaving the exam room to unlock the door after I rapped at the window. He had no reprimands for me at all. Also in Abstract Algebra class one time he was trying to remember what he had said and asked to see my notes. I was horrified to pass on to him my notes with various drawings in the margin. "Ah, doodles of the abstract!" he quickly said as he smiled. I am grateful to have been blessed by Eldon Miller's teaching.

Hazel Barnes Shedd

Hazel Shedd - March 03, 2018 at 01:04 PM

DG

“ November 18, 2017

I completed my Ph.D. at Ole Miss from 1982-1987 in Educational Administration. I taught as a graduate assistant and I had several other jobs on campus including officiating Intramural Recreational Sports on the Ole Miss Campus. I remember Eldon quite well. He was a very down to earth person, a great educator and he was still a skilled athlete even after the age of 40. I also played on the Sybarites Intramural softball team with Eldon during the summer sessions of 1985 and 1986 at Ole Miss.

I remember a lot of times that Eldon would share memories of his time playing at The University of Alabama and of his good times knowing Joe Namath who played quarterback at Alabama during the 1960's.

Eldon always had a smile and always had time for others. When I was at Ole Miss he lived in the faculty housing area not far from the Student Union Building and he often invited many of us to visit. He loved to talk about sports. He was also always willing to work beyond class hours with his students.

He loved Ole Miss and was a big part of Ole Miss for many years in many ways. I had many friends who took Math courses from Eldon and they all spoke highly of him.

When I was completing my own dissertation for my Ph.D. in 1987 he gave me many very good suggestions toward the completion of my work. We all are better for having known Dr. Eldon Miller.

I will not say RIP because I know that even after this life that Eldon will be mentoring others and staying active in sports. So I will say more appropriately....Be Well and Stay Well Dr. Eldon Miller.

*Dr. Chris Gelenter
Jonesboro, Arkansas*

Dr. Chris Gelenter - November 18, 2017 at 01:26 PM

MS

“ Eldon was a good friend of my brother, Jim Brenneman, in Fruita, Colorado. Jim passed away in 1994. I'm Jim's youngest sister, and while I don't remember ever meeting Eldon, his was a household name as I was growing up in Orange, California.

I'm so sorry for your loss, and am extending our family's condolences to you. I'm praying that God has been and will continue to surround you with his peace and comfort in your loss.

*Marie (Brenneman) Saenger
Pittstown, New Jersey*

Marie Saenger - October 30, 2017 at 03:12 PM

PC

Thank you, Marie, for your comments. Eldon always valued his friendship with Jim and really loved him like a brother. It left a huge hole in Eldon's heart and mine when Jimmy passed away. Our second son is named James Douglas after your brother and he is proud to carry that name. Eldon and I were divorced, however, we shared a special friendship for the last twenty years of his life.

*Priscilla Chamblin
Foley, Alabama*

Priscilla Chamblin - December 02, 2017 at 08:57 PM

VG

“Eldon was a long-time friend. As young faculty members, we lived in Northgate faculty apartments, where we often talked sports together. We were teammates on a University Intramural Softball team. No doubt -- he was the best player on the team. Our biggest win was when we beat the Ole Miss football team!!! We all took a lot of pride in that!!!

We commuted together to the Tupelo campus, and we always ate together. That was when I learned he was a diabetic.

Eldon was always ready to help students. When they came with problems...whether math or personal...he was available.

We visited him at his home where he trained his dogs. He was generous with his time, and helped us set up an electric fence for our "wandering" dogs.

I remember so well his big-hearted laughter. It was always a pleasure to be around him, and though I am not able to join you for the services, I am grieving along with you.

He was a good, long-time friend.

Vaughn Grisham

Vaughn Grisham - September 23, 2017 at 09:40 AM

JC

“I am so sorry for your loss. Dr. Miller was the best mathematics teacher I have ever known. He was brilliant and an engaging teacher and a very wonderful person.

Joanna Garrett Conner - September 21, 2017 at 12:41 PM

CP

“ i played semi pro baseball with eldon miller n he waa 1 of the nicest men you would ever want to meet n there never waa a time that he didnt make time to speak to u r just talk to u about anything.god bless a great friend n to his family n eldon will always be on my mind wen i think about baseball.

chucky posey - September 20, 2017 at 02:44 PM

TT

I used to work on his motorcycle in the mid-60's. Great man.

Toger Tubbs - September 22, 2017 at 05:30 PM



“ 51 files added to the album LifeTributes



Coleman Funeral Home - September 19, 2017 at 04:33 PM

MC

“ My memories of growing up in Oxford include Eldon Miller. While living in Northgate apts several of us boys would knock on his door and ask if he could come out and play. He was happy to oblige and would throw the football or baseball for hours. Eldon always had a smile on his face and would offer "advice" to anyone struggling with issues. What a great role model. When I attended Ole Miss I learned he was Math chair and would stop by and reminisce about the good old days. After graduating, and moving away I often thought of him and wondered what other group of boys he was influencing. Now that he is in Heaven he can show them how to throw out a runner at 2nd base while kneeling behind home plate.

mike curtis - September 14, 2017 at 05:41 PM

DW

“ Eldon was a good Friend to my Mother Sarah Owens and us kids! She worked at the Beacon Restaurant in Oxford!! She would cook a lunch at home when she was off for my Brother-in-Laws and Eldon would come by and eat with them! I remember him coming to the Beacon and eating and would have his Dogs in the back of his Vehicle and stayed right there and didn't try to get out! He had them well trained!! He will be missed by his Family and Friends!! Now he is in Heaven with my Mother!! Fly High Eldon!! R. I. P. My Friend!!



Donna Owens Williams - September 14, 2017 at 01:34 PM

DW

Praying for the Family and Friends!!

Donna Owens Williams - September 14, 2017 at 01:36 PM

CS

I remember him as such a sweet, handsome man. I was a little girl when we all lived in Northgate, and I remember him always smiling, and so sweet to the children in the neighborhood.

Catherine Smith - September 14, 2017 at 10:16 PM

DY

“ I have known Eldon for almost 50 years. My introduction to Eldon was as my Differential Equations instructor. I was member of the Six Turtles Intramural Football team and we played City Planning where Eldon was playing center. I kinda worked Eldon over during that game. He was a great competitor. We went on to win Campus Intramural Championship against Sigma Chi. Eldon asked for us form a team for the next year. We won few championships over the years.

Eldon, as Mathematics Department Chairman, helped me with setting up courses to complete my Master Degree. There was a graduate-level Mathematics Statistics Course taught in the summer primarily for high school math teacher. I asked Eldon and he complied to make the course a true graduate level course. There were 27 high school math teachers and three graduate students signed up for the class. After two weeks there were 12 high school math teachers and three graduate students. The second semester was only three graduate students left. Years later I felt sorry for those high school math teachers. Dr. Clark was tough.

After I retired from the Air Force and returned to Oxford, I took my wife over to meet Eldon. He introduced her to his eight Labrador Retrievers. You know the ones, the ones who set patiently in the back of his SUV at the Beacon with the hatch raised and the labs never moved. Eldon would go out to greet the people who stopped to pet his labs especially the ladies. Eldon was responsible for my wife starting Rebel Land Labradors Kennel initially in Oxford and now in Weatherford Texas. He mentored her in all aspects of whelping and raising Lab pups.

When Eldon moved into the retirement home, he took Duke, a gorgeous yellow lab, with him. He asked my daughter to come over twice a day, seven days a week and help him take care of Duke. I knew he liked my daughter because he always picked on her. She graduated two years ago and moved to Atlanta. She came by this summer to visit, but Eldon was asleep during her stay. She was so

dishearten.

Eldon, you have furnished so many memories for my wife, my daughter, and myself over the years. Rest in Peace dear friend.

Dan, Susan, and Jenna Yates

Dan Yates - September 12, 2017 at 02:06 PM

KC

“*Eldon was the best baseball coach I ever had. He was always a positive role model and encouraged us to be the best we could be. I will always remember you Eldon. Thanks for making me and many others who we are today. Kip Crawford.*”

kip crawford - September 09, 2017 at 10:46 PM