



## Larry Dean Miller

October 8, 1946 - March 27, 2020

“We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.”

Immanuel Kant

Larry Dean Miller died in his home on March 27, 2020, surpassing every prognosis and all expectations after an advanced small cell carcinoma diagnosis in April 2019.

Larry was born in Caledonia, Minnesota on October 8, 1946 and grew up in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor’s degree in Statistics and Economics, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, where he served for twenty years. His military career took him all over the world—Australia, Thailand, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand and much of Europe—as a member of the Amphibious Warfare Presentation Team. He was a Naval Space Command Officer and was awarded a Navy Commendation medal three times, as well as a Meritorious Service Medal.

After retiring as a major, he returned to Bartlesville to teach high school and college-level history, social studies, government and geography. His experience as a military officer and world traveler combined with his gift for storytelling made him a favorite among students, some of whom made a point of taking every class he offered. His passion for history was also reflected in his extensive, museum-worthy collection of artwork and memorabilia related to World War I and II, space travel and cowboys.

Larry and his wife Theresa lived on a fifteen-acre property with the moniker “All Creatures Ranch,” where they sheltered, loved and cared for a menagerie of animals over the years. Larry died surrounded by his family along with seven dogs, six cats, three horses, three turtles, and a rabbit named Harvey. He considered himself to be a steward of the world’s most vulnerable creatures, brought here to care for them however he could. If he saw a turtle crossing a road, he always pulled over, stopped, and carried it to the other side—to safety.

After being told it would be unlikely he would survive beyond nine months, Larry set three

goals for himself: to ring in the new year in 2020, to attend the NatureWorks art event in Tulsa in early March, and to celebrate his 38th wedding anniversary with his wife Theresa on March 13th. He achieved all three goals and then proceeded to spend another two weeks with his family, offering them yet another example of his undaunted determination and extraordinary life force.

He was preceded in death by his father, Alvin Julius Miller, and his mother, Ernestin Elam Miller. He is survived by Theresa Miller, his wife of 38 years, daughter Amanda Jennings and her husband Gary, daughter Christine Davanzo and her husband Larry, and granddaughter Kaylee, all of whom had the honor and privilege of caring for him during his last weeks.

During this most bittersweet time, Larry and his family experienced many moments of levity and joy, mainly due to Larry's determination to crack a joke at every possible opportunity. Just days before his death, as he was getting back into bed, exhausted and in pain, he said, "Did you get that guy's license plate?" (The horrible joke being that he felt like he got hit by a truck.) His mind, and sense of humor, remained razor sharp until the very end.

It isn't possible to adequately express the magnificent universe of love Larry created with his family and the All Creatures Ranch. During the 73 years he was able to shine his light on this world, he set an extraordinary example of strength, courage, and deep compassion—in his words and, most of all, in his actions. He will be deeply missed.

Per Larry's wishes, no services will be held.

In lieu of flowers, Larry and his family request a donation to the Washington County SPCA:

<https://www.wcspca.org/>

Larry took in, loved, and cared for many shelter animals in his lifetime. It was his greatest passion.

Thank you.

# Comments

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“ Larry - You were right and I was totally wrong! You were a very good man and I neglected to see that while we knew each other. Semper Fi - Al Katzberg

**Allan Katzberg** - August 14 at 10:14 PM

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“ We knew Larry through the Bartlesville Strolling Strings and spent many a happy time visiting during performances. Larry was a joy to be around, was a great Dad, and a great husband. We will remember him fondly.

**Mike/Susan Ray** - April 08, 2020 at 10:09 PM



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**Christine** - April 09, 2020 at 07:26 PM



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Thank you.

**Theresa Miller** - April 21, 2020 at 07:38 PM

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“ Larry was our friend and neighbor. You will be missed. Bob & Kay Herring

**Bob Herring** - April 04, 2020 at 07:51 PM



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Thank you, Bob.

**Christine** - April 09, 2020 at 07:26 PM



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Thank you.

**Theresa Miller** - April 21, 2020 at 07:40 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of helping Mr Miller with his Radiology exams throughout his cancer battle. He always asked for me by name to do his tests. I was heartbroken when I heard of his passing. We shared our love of animals, especially horses and dogs, and cowboys. He was a kind and thoughtful man that even remembered his healthcare workers with a sweet Christmas present dropped off by his sweet wife. Mr Miller always left me with a chuckle from his joking spirit and maybe a few hairs from his fur babies! I know he is healed now and in a better place

**Tammy Medley** - April 04, 2020 at 11:02 AM



“ Thank you for sharing these little stories.

**Christine** - April 04, 2020 at 01:25 PM



“ We both appreciated your caring for him.

**Theresa Miller** - April 21, 2020 at 07:41 PM

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“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Larry Dean Miller.



April 02, 2020 at 10:24 AM

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“ That was an amazing eulogy, thanks to whomever wrote it. We loved the way it described his life here on earth. Strength, love and shine your light in memory of a wonderful man. So sorry to see you leave so soon, but we know your safe in the hands of the almighty. Dana and Kaleen Follow

**KALEEN E FOLLOW** - March 31, 2020 at 10:39 AM



“ His daughter Christine wrote the obituary.

**Theresa** - March 31, 2020 at 10:49 AM

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Larry took in, loved, and cared for many shelter animals in his lifetime. It was his greatest passion.

Thank you.  
{Cowgirl - blind, deaf, and very affectionate.}



**Christine Davanzo** - March 31, 2020 at 10:07 AM

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“ Larry was a role model to many students and people around him. He loved animals and passed that on to his daughter, Dr. Amanda Jennings,DVM. Once a marine always a marine!

**MARTHA F MCWHORTER** - March 30, 2020 at 09:54 PM



“ Thank you Martha.

**Theresa Miller** - April 21, 2020 at 07:42 PM

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“ Larry was a blessing to so many. His kindness towards us will never be forgotten. Praying for all of you.

**Emily McAfee** - March 30, 2020 at 11:50 AM



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**Christine** - March 30, 2020 at 12:57 PM



“ Thank you for the sweet words.

**Theresa Miller** - April 21, 2020 at 07:42 PM

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“ Larry with his family and a lifelong friend in 2019.



**Christine Davanzo** - March 30, 2020 at 09:34 AM

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“ Larry grew up in Bartlesville. After retiring from the Marine Corps, he returned to his hometown.



**Christine Davanzo** - March 30, 2020 at 09:32 AM

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“ Larry with his dog Tippy



**Christine Davanzo** - March 30, 2020 at 09:11 AM



“ Oh my goodness; he never changed! I only knew him at the Mid High but can certainly recognize him in this photo.

**Colleen Bennett** - March 31, 2020 at 06:31 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Christine Davanzo** - March 30, 2020 at 09:01 AM



“ Larry with his granddaughter Kaylee

**Christine Davanzo** - March 30, 2020 at 09:01 AM

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“ Dear Teresa, Cris and Amanda- We are praying for all of you and know that we have great memories of you all. Larry is blessed to have been surrounded by so much love.

Please know that all the Stracks are thinking of you. Jerry, Mary Jo , Casey and Paige

**mary jo Strack** - March 29, 2020 at 01:11 PM



“ Thank you so much, Mary Jo. Your prayers mean the world to us.

**Christine Davanzo** - March 30, 2020 at 08:58 AM



“ Thank you MaryJo. Your family blessed the Millers doe so many years.

**Theresa** - March 31, 2020 at 07:43 PM



“ Theresa and Amanda, the Radebaugh family sends it love and prayers during this time. Your Larry was such a blessing to so many! Please know that our hearts are hurting with you! Lexie, Tim, Trent, and Myna

**Lexie Radebaugh** - March 31, 2020 at 10:28 PM