

*Mary Belle Harmon
Miller*

*Jan 13 1920 - Apr 22 2012
AAFA #0851*

Mary Belle Miller

1920-2012



Posted: Tuesday, April 24, 2012
1:33 am

MARYVILLE, Mo. — Mary Belle Harmon Miller and Leon F. Miller were married for 65 years. Having met at the library

while in college at STC (now Missouri State University), they were married May 5, 1946, after Leon returned from Army service in World War II. Leon Miller died on May 28, 2011. So close was their bond that the

following day, Mary Belle suffered a disabling stroke, from which she did not recover. Mary Belle Miller died on April 22, 2012.

As newlyweds, the Millers lived in Chicago while Leon earned his MA and PhD from the University of Chicago. In 1950 they moved to Maryville, Mo., when Leon accepted a job as a professor and head of the Division of Education at Northwest Missouri State College. He would later serve as Dean of Instruction and Graduate Dean.

Daughters Carol and Gayle became the focal point of Mary Belle's nurturing. Mary Belle dedicated countless hours throughout her life helping her daughters and husband in tasks and proofreading that made their careers and projects more achievable. The Millers were very proud of their daughters and their daughters were very proud of their parents. Daughter, Gayle Miller Bilden, a chemist, died in a car accident on ice in 1979 at age 23.

Surviving her parents is older daughter, Carol J. Miller, a business law Distinguished Professor at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo. since 1984. Son-in-law Bill Cobb predeceased Mary Belle.

She is survived by son-in-law, Dean Bilden, as well as cousins and nieces, and their families.

Mary Belle Harmon Miller was born near Sheldon, Mo., on January 13, 1920, the daughter of Rupert Franklin Harmon and Mary Anne Fugate Harmon, who preceded her in death. Mary Belle grew up in small towns in southwest Missouri

where her parents were teachers.

Several summers were spent on farms or in Springfield, Mo., or Columbia while her parents worked on their college degrees. Mary Belle graduated from Walnut Grove (Mo.) High School in 1936, where she played on the girls basketball team, and graduated with highest honors in 1940 from Southwest Missouri State Teachers College (STC), now Missouri State University, where she majored in commerce (business education) and music. She was honored to be the woman speaker at the college Senior's Honor Assembly in 1940. Mary Belle was student "Y" President, Pi Omega Pi Treasurer, and was a member of the Bruin Boosters pep club, Glee Club and Mixed Chorus in addition to participating in college plays. Mary Belle taught for five years and took graduate classes one summer at the University of Minnesota and at the University of Chicago. She taught business and music classes at Nixa, Mo., and Willard, Mo., before joining her parents at Rice-Patterson Air Force Base, where she taught typing and secretarial skills to service men in World War II.

For over 60 years, Mary Belle was active in the Maryville, Mo., community. She was faithfully involved in the First Christian Church as a board member, member of the serving deaconate, and CWF president, and was a Sunday School member. In American Legion

Auxiliary, she served at the 4th District President and Maryville President twice. She was the chairperson of the local Girls State selection committee for 23 years and volunteered at the state Girls State camp for 12 years. When the girls were young, she was a Girls Scout leader. Mary Belle participated in the Red Cross singers, served as a hospital surgery waiting room volunteer, and delivered Meals on Wheels for 17 years. She was active in the NWMSU Faculty Dames and AAUW. Mary Belle was a founding member of a faculty wives bridge group founded in 1952, which is still active and whose members are honorary pall bearers. Mary Belle and Leon also played duplicate bridge in a bridge group for four decades. She attended many University, Legion and Lions activities with Leon, and was a loyal Bearcat sports fan.

Mary Belle Miller greatly enjoyed engaging in conversation with friends and relatives and keeping current on new issues, often saving clippings. On various trips, she was eager to research family history genealogy. She had great attention to and recollection of details. Mary Belle had a great concern for the well-being of family members and friends, and she will be greatly missed.

Her service will be held at First Christian Church, Maryville, Mo., on Friday, April 27, at 10:30 a.m. with burial to follow in Nodaway Memorial Gardens

Cemetery, Maryville. Visitation will be held Thursday night, April 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Price Funeral Home.

Memorials can be sent to the Maryville First Christian Church or the James Edward Gray American Legion

Auxiliary for Girls State sponsorship/activities or to the American Red Cross.



Carol Miller
3529 S Bellhurst Ave
Springfield MO 65804-4661
Humane Society Legislative Fund

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63031029797



AAFA

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Florissant, MO 63031-0297

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My mother, Mary Belle Miller
died this year. PLEASE do not send any
future mail to the Maryville, Mo address.
You may mail reunion information to me
at the Springfield, Mo address below.
Carol Miller

deceased - Mary Belle Miller, AAFA # 0851
921 W 2nd Street
Maryville, MO 64468-2025

FWD TO 3529 S. Bellhurst Ave.
Springfield, mo 65804

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Carrier Endorsement