



## Maretta C. Miller

May 15, 1924 - July 24, 2022

Maretta Miller, a longtime resident of Waukegan and Libertyville, died at the Sheridan at Green Oaks assisted living facility in Lake Bluff on Sunday. She was 98.

She was born in a small farming town called Shelbina in northeastern Missouri in 1924. She was the second child of Clarence and Viola Collier, and the only girl in a family with four children. Her father was a rural route mailman who rose before dawn to deliver the mail to the farmers on his route.

She graduated from the University of Missouri at Columbia, where she worked in the University Library, and where she eventually met her future husband, Jonathan P. Miller, who had just returned from serving as a navigator in the Army Air Corps in Europe during World War II. They became engaged shortly after they met, and once they were married and had both finished school, they moved to Waukegan, IL, where he started work at Abbott Laboratories and she started work as a secretary for the law firm in Waukegan that would eventually become known as Diver, Grach, Quade & Masini. She was a trusted and loyal employee, eventually becoming the office manager, and she stayed with the firm until her retirement almost 50 years later.

She was an active member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, an international women's organization with a primary focus on providing educational opportunities for female students worldwide, and she served for over 50 years. She was also active in the First Baptist Church in Waukegan, where she taught Sunday school; the Junior Women's League of Waukegan; the Family Service Agency,

where she served as Treasurer; and she served on the board of United Way of Lake County.

She was a gifted bridge player, with an almost uncanny ability to remember what cards had been played, and she participated in several bridge clubs, where she and her husband (sometimes known as “J.P.” or “Jeep”) developed many lifelong friends.

Maretta and J.P. moved to Libertyville in 1985, where they became active members of the First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville, and where she served on the Board of Deacons. She began to lose her sight to macular degeneration in the 1990s, and in 2004 her loving husband of over 50 years died of a heart attack.

In spite of her visual impairment, she was determined to continue living alone in her home in Libertyville, which would not have been possible without Mark and his wife Maureen, and without the generous help of the many friends she had accumulated over a lifetime.

She fell and broke her hip in 2019, forcing a move into assisted living, and in December of 2021 she contracted Covid-19, which hastened her decline.

She is survived by her sons David and Mark, Mark’s wife Maureen; and by Mark and Maureen’s sons Jonathan (and by Jonathan’s wife Ariel and their two children, Jack and Lukas) and Sean (and by Sean’s wife Amanda and their three children, Collier “C.J.,” Merritt, and Marigold).

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Jonathan “J.P.”; by her brothers Bob, Chuck, and Sam; and by David’s wife Virginia “Ginny.”

In lieu of flowers, please consider a charitable donation in her memory to either

P.E.O. Chapter NG, 14292 West Kirkwall Ct., Libertyville, IL 60048, or

The First Presbyterian Church, 219 Maple Ave., Libertyville, IL 60048

A visitation will begin at 10 AM, followed by a funeral service at 11 AM, on Saturday, July 30, 2022 at the First Presbyterian Church in Libertyville, located at 219 Maple Avenue. To view virtually, a livestream is available on church website, <https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstPresbyterianChurchofLibertyville>

Arrangements by Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville. For more information, please call 847.362.3009 or share a memory at [www.burnettdane.com](http://www.burnettdane.com)

Click link below for livestreaming:

<https://youtu.be/BouDaNz2KNo>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
219 W. Maple Ave.  
Libertyville, IL 60048  
<http://www.firstpreslibertyville.org>

## Funeral Service

JUL 30. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
219 W. Maple Ave.  
Libertyville, IL 60048  
<http://www.firstpreslibertyville.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Burnett-Dane Funeral Home created a Live Funeral Footage in memory of Maretta C. Miller*



**Burnett-Dane Funeral Home** - July 29, 2022 at 03:13 PM

KH

*I know Aunt Rhett is in a good place now but I still feel sad such a wonderful person is no longer with us. She literally was the most amazing, sweetest and kind human being I have ever known! What a role model to have her for an Aunt! Her Service was a beautiful tribute to her life. She will live on in the hearts of anyone and everyone who had the privilege to know her. My prayers will continue for David, Mark and all her family and friends during this difficult time! Love always  
Karen Braxdale Harrison.*

**Karen Braxdale Harrison** - August 08, 2022 at 02:39 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Maretta C. Miller.*



July 30, 2022 at 11:04 AM

JC

“ *Maretta was one of my favorite fellow deacons who was always interested in serving others--she was an important leader for the Meals on Wheels program.*

Jim Curtis - July 29, 2022 at 08:39 PM

DW

“ *David, Mark and Maureen- Please know that Dave and I send our love to you and all the family. Aunt Rhett was "always" the most kind loving woman that I ever met. She never had a unkind word about anyone. Her love will live on in me forever. My mom would always say that "Rhett was the sister that she never had." My mom was forever grateful for the last in person visit that she had with Aunt Rhett about 6 yrs before her own death in 2017. She is the last of that generation and I will pray that I can be the positive energy that she was. Living to the age of 98 yrs old is not easy. It requires acceptance for the changes that come in life. She was an example of accepting these changes no matter how difficult. We send much LOVE to you all. We will attend her service virtually on Sat. Love, Deb and Dave Ward.*

Deb Ward - July 29, 2022 at 01:51 PM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Maretta C. Miller.*



July 29, 2022 at 12:02 AM

AS

“ Mark and Maureen, I cannot think we could have found a better place to raise three daughters than next door to your parents. Their door was always open and their smiles always full of sunshine and laughter. Don and I know that all 5 of us felt their love and their welcoming presence. I could knock on the door and immediately be welcomed into the kitchen to share a cup of coffee. The 2 decades we were neighbors were the absolute best. We loved them to pieces. The picture Jessica sent to you today is on an electronic photo frame in our current home and I see Rhett everyday and will continue to see her everyday. She is a beautiful presence in my life.

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**Anna Sime** - July 27, 2022 at 06:37 PM

JP

“ Mark, Moe, David, Jonathan, Sean and family - Our family is filled with warm memories of Maretta's love and caring for all of us as extended family over the wonderful decades spent together. Holiday celebrations and visits with her and Jeep were important milestones and memories in the years of our kids growing up together. She was impressively brave and resilient through blindness and the loss of Jeep, and just kept focusing on the kindness and love that she could give to others. What a great run all the way to 98 - and I know she looked forward to being reunited with Jeep. Much love to you all through this difficult time. Jeff, Josh, Laura, John Peterson

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**Jeff Peterson** - July 27, 2022 at 04:50 PM

DR

“ Mark, I can't remember ever having met a kinder, more caring person than your mom. We rejoice that she will be at peace forever with your dad

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**Donald Robertson** - July 27, 2022 at 01:00 PM

DC

*Maretta was an extraordinary person! She was so happy, thoughtful and always interested in others. I had many wonderful times playing bridge with her. She was a remarkable player! - Dee Curns*

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**Dee Curns** - August 01, 2022 at 02:04 PM