



James Furman Miller

June 17, 1952 - June 9, 2024

MILLER, James, F., Jr., June 9, 2024, Age 71. Beloved husband of Christine Fecteau for 38 years. Loving father of Jennifer Ward, Erin (Louis Meizlish) Miller, and Jana Miller. Proud grandfather of Cecelia (Babin) Shrestha, Max Meizlish, and Joan Meizlish. Dear brother of Dorothy (Garvin) Gentry and Kenneth (Marissa) Miller. Jim is also survived by Jennifer's mom, Cathy Miller.

Jim grew up on the east side of Detroit, and learned the value of hard work as a young man at his father's gas station. Jim graduated from Cass Technical High School in 1970, and went on to a long and successful career as a line worker and eventually a metal repairman at Chrysler Corp., from which he retired in 2005.

Jim was an avid fan of car racing and enjoyed volunteering at the Detroit Grand Prix and Waterford Hills Road Racing, where he put to good use his wife's VW Rabbit GTI that he had retooled into an ITB race car.

Jim was a fount of knowledge about cars and home improvement. His unassuming and quiet nature masked a heavy intellect. And Jim was always available to friends and family members whenever they realized they were in

over their heads with a project.

Jim was a family man through and through. All three daughters graduated from high school and college and went on to successful careers in counseling/ministry, medicine, and retail.

Jim's physicians originally told him he had five to ten years before he would succumb to cancer. If it is possible for a cancer patient to thrive, Jim did just that. He lived 20 years, traveling, reading, volunteering, working on his hot rod, racing cars, and never letting his diagnosis deter him from family and fun.

Visitation Wednesday June 12th 3-9pm. Funeral Thursday June 13th at 11am at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons 36900 Schoenherr at Metro Parkway (16 Mile Rd). Interment Resurrection Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorial donations in Jim's honor would be appreciated to the American Cancer Society or to a charity of your choice. Share memories with the family at their "On-Line Guest Book" @ WujekCalcaterra.com.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **12**. 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Funeral Service

JUN **13**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons Inc - Sterling
36900 SCHOENHERR RD
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Tribute Wall

MS

“ Jimmy and I were good friends during our days on Detroit's East Side. We both moved on to Cass Tech and beyond. Jimmy's first wife Cathy and I were the best of friends. I was saddened to hear of his passing and would like to extend my condolences.to all. Mike Storey

Michael Storey - September 26, 2024 at 12:26 PM

RL

“ Very sorry to learn of the passing of Jimmy Miller. We first met many decades ago growing up on the far east side of Detroit when we were members of Boy Scout troop 445. We re-connected about 15 years ago when we kept on bumping into one another at various car events and at the Packard Proving Grounds.

Jim always had a smile on his face and never complained about his health issues. My deepest condolences to his wife Christine and the rest of his family. May he rest in peace.

Sincerely, Roger Luksik

Roger Luksik - June 13, 2024 at 01:33 PM

RN

“ Sending our deepest Sympathy to all the family from all the Newmans, The best neighbor, many great memories... Jim always with a cute little smirkey smile, conversations shared about his racing, Chrysler & neighborhood stuff over the back fence, dreading but loving 4 Bears fireworks...loaning us the two wheel trailer for us to rescue Kevin, family & his vehicle when they broke down in PA...you were one of the great ones...and will be sorely missed. You fought the good fight with Chris at your side ☐ Rest in Peace Jim ❤️

Roger & Dianne Newman - June 13, 2024 at 01:16 PM

BM

“ I enjoyed working with Jim, on the race tower at Waterford. We worked many races together....A good guy, who the club, and I will miss.....

Bruce MacDonald - June 12, 2024 at 04:56 PM

LR

“ Chris and family,

So sorry and sad to hear of Jim's passing. You and your family lost a wonderful and kind husband, father and grandfather. Having known Jim for many years, I always looked forward to seeing him and our conversations about family, vacations, car racing and everything in between. Being blessed with cutting his curls for 40+ years, I think I heard it all. Always entertaining, funny and sincere. He loved you and his family more than anything. I never tired of his life stories and will truly miss my good friend.

Heartfelt condolences,
Louisa Rinaldi

Louisa Rinaldi - June 12, 2024 at 07:49 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of James Furman Miller.*



June 11, 2024 at 01:53 PM



“ *Dave Cizmas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Furman Miller.*

Dave Cizmas - June 11, 2024 at 01:53 PM



“ *2 files added to the album WHRRI*



Dave Cizmas - June 11, 2024 at 12:54 PM

TR

“ To Chris and all of Jim's family, the Robbins family sends our warmest condolences. I have many good memories of Jim and our times we shared together as racers, Corner Marshalls and as of the past several years, Race Operators at Waterford Hills. Jim certainly loved the track and the racing community, and was a great guy to share those times with. I'll will always remember his pleasant and kind demeanor, his sense of humor and the many laughs we shared, his knowledge and wisdom of racing experiences. That's what I'll miss most and were always welcome, up on the tower. I'll surely miss not having him there at the track most of all, I considered him a good friend and a good person. So sorry for your loss, may God bless you and your family. Rest in peace my friend.

Todd Robbins - June 11, 2024 at 11:28 AM

CM

“ I first met Jim, Kenny and Chuck at the racetrack sometime in the 70s. They were like the Three Musketeers - always cracking jokes and making bad puns. I found we shared the same excellent sense of humor and when Jim married Chris she fit right in too. My husband's brother and his family invited us over to watch fireworks one Fourth of July. Lo and behold, Jim and Chris lived across the street, so we spent the holiday going back and forth enjoying the hospitality. My husband's name was also Jim, and since my name is Chris, the Millers became "The Other Jim and Chris". Sometimes confusing when together! The Other Jim and I frequently commuted together to the Detroit Grand Prix, where we volunteered our time playing in traffic or staffing the Autorama. I asked him to drive when using my car (mistake!) because I didn't know my way around Detroit and he did. By the time we got there, I was usually hoarse from telling him to slow down, and my knuckles were white from gripping the door. But we always got there and home unscathed. Jim was the kind of guy that could talk knowledgeably about anything and make fun of it too. We both loved cars, although I never understood the Fiat station wagon fetish. He took a lot of s**t from everyone about it, but much to his credit, he didn't care. I dearly miss his laugh, bad jokes and days at Waterford Hills with him, Kenny and Chuck. I would go to the monthly club meetings and they were the first ones I looked for- I knew there was a good time to be had in their company. My sincere sympathies to The Other Chris and his lovely girls Erin and Jana. Race on, my friend.

Chris Maurer - June 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM

CM

Sorry Jenny - didn't mean to leave you out! Brain fade.

Chris Maurer - June 11, 2024 at 10:03 AM

LA

“ *Love, Lisa, Alon and Ari purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of James Furman Miller.*



Love, Lisa, Alon and Ari - June 10, 2024 at 10:28 PM

GW

“ You know how when you meet some people, you remember them by their first and last names all run together? Well, many will know him as Jim, but he'll always be JimmyMiller to me. I must have mentioned him enough at home that even my mom called him Jimmy Miller.

I was seven in the second grade and new to Lillibridge Elementary on the east side of Detroit. He just seemed like a nice classmate whose parents had raised him to be kind. We both ended up taking Instrumental Music (Jim-baritone/tuba and me-flute) so we also shared school-wide music programs during and after school. It was at one of those evening programs at Foch Jr. High that someone goofed and didn't provide me or Jimmy a ride home. Rather than just say, "Goodbye" and walk home (in the dark), Jimmy walked me all the way home which was 4+blocks out of his way. My parents and I were so grateful to him for such consideration.

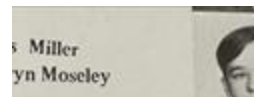
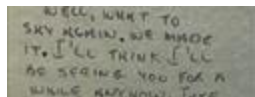
Jimmy and I attended Cass Technical H.S. in downtown Detroit. I wasn't one of the best students, but everyone was from all over the city so that's what we all seemed to thrive on-differences and the shared knowledge that we were all there to do something with our brains. After graduation and Jimmy's quick move to family life, we somehow kept in touch. When I finished at Wayne State University and figured out a way to afford an apartment with a friend, Jimmy was there to help me move in.

If COVID had not happened, I had talked to and hoped to see Jimmy at our Cass Tech H.S. 50th Reunion in 2020, but alas. We hadn't seen much of each other over the years, but my husband, Tony, and I had the pleasure of seeing fireworks in the Cumberland house back yard or going out to dinner (Jim , Chris, Tony, me). Or seeing Jim at some car event. Plus, we had some of the most endearing phone calls.

Now, I feel somehow diminished and sad.

Farewell, JimmyMiller

Gwen





Gwen - June 10, 2024 at 08:55 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James Furman Miller.* ”



June 10, 2024 at 06:48 PM

“ Jim was a life-long friend to me. I first met Jim when he was a scout in Troop 445. My dad was scoutmaster, and even though I wasn't old enough to join yet, my dad took me along on a campout when I was about 8 because he didn't have enough scouts to fill the cabin. He asked Jim to keep an eye on me and teach me some of the scouting lore. Jim was a great companion that weekend and an excellent tutor. When I was 11 I joined the scout troop. Jim and the older scouts were assigned to teach us about knots and leaves during the meeting. I would sit and pretend to read my handbook while I listened to the older scouts talk to each other about fast cars and girls. I thought they knew a lot about cars at least, and back in the 60's fast cars were of great interest to me (and still are). After the meeting was over the scouts would choose up sides for a friendly game of basketball. I was small, so I would be matched against Jim as he was the smallest of the older scouts. Jim didn't always stay for the basketball game as he felt it was important to get home to his new bride Cathy. I would try to convince him to stay, but somehow she usually won out. By the time I was old enough to buy my first car, Jim would offer me performance tips. I also helped him work on some of the cars he had at the time (a Datsun 1600 and later a Mazda 3). His budget didn't really allow him to buy the most reliable cars, but they were interesting and started a long tradition of us working on cars together. We became interested in actually racing when we started volunteering as corner workers at Waterford Hills. Our good friend and boyscout Eddy lived near the track and we would stay at his place on the weekends. Later we had a joint venture investing in two Fiat 124 Sport Spiders and spent numerous weekends preparing them for the race track at Waterford Hills (while watching his daughter Jenny). Those two cars never made it to the track, but they were a fun project and Jim and I had many an adventure together working on them for years. Our corner working experience eventually extended to Formula 1, Indycar and IMSA. We eventually made it on the track with a Fiat 128 Jim bought new. It had the distinct advantage over our other cars in that it actually ran. Jim would drive it in the races while I was his crew and I would drive the co-driver races with Jim as crew. Lap times

indicated that I had a better crew than Jim did. Jim also helped me rebuild two different Corvairs. When we weren't working on cars Jim and I went to many concerts in Detroit. After college I moved out of the area and didn't get to spend as much time with Jim. But whenever I came back to see relatives I always tried to make time to see Jim. Our friendship never lessened over the physical distance. Jim and Chris were out to Seattle last fall to visit with me and I was planning to come see him next month as well. I am deeply saddened to lose my oldest and dearest friend. He meant a lot to many people as he was a very special man. So long old friend.

Chuck



Chuck Bloch - June 10, 2024 at 06:35 PM

KK

“ Swirl & velocity 🤔

Kate Karwowska - June 10, 2024 at 06:00 PM