



## David "Dave" Michael Miller

April 1, 1937 - May 6, 2020

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Born at St. Charles on "Hospital Hill" in downtown Bend, Dave was proud to be a native Bendite. Dave grew up with his older brother Pete and older sister Mary in the Shevlin-Hixon logging camps south of Bend where his father (James) was a train engineer and his mother (Helen) was a schoolteacher.

As a young man he enlisted in the Navy toward the end of the Korean War. During his 4-year stint, he served as an electrician's mate. After a collision while on board the USS Wantuck, he received a commendation for outstanding performance when he and a small group managed to bring the severely damaged vessel back to port. After receiving an honorable discharge, he returned to Bend and worked for the US Forest Service on the Deschutes National Forest as a Fire Control Officer. He enjoyed his time on the Fort Rock Ranger District where he fought many fires with his Uncle Dan Beougher, including the "Aspen Flat" fire. Dave also patrolled the ranger district and spent much time at the Cabin Lake Guard Station. His life being connected to the natural resources of Central Oregon and the wood products industry was far from over. During the early '60s he built on his electrical background from the Navy and began his career with the Brooks-Scanlon mill as an apprentice electrician. Dave was known for his wit, hard work and get it

done attitude. He worked in roles of increasing responsibility and achieved the position of General Manager. Sadly, with a changing Central Oregon and a failing wood products industry, he was the last General Manager of the last sawmill in Bend when it cut its last log in 1993. He traveled extensively in a variety of corporate roles for Crown Pacific prior to his retirement in 1999.

In his spare time and retirement, he enjoyed hunting, fishing and traveling. He grew up fishing the Deschutes River and also enjoyed many of the High Lakes in the region. The Benham Falls area of the Deschutes was a particular favorite of his, when hiking "over the lavas" was the way to go fishing there. Dave loved the many trips he took to Alaska to visit his brother Pete where they fished for salmon and halibut in the Kenai region. To take a break from Central Oregon winters, he loved to travel to Hawaii with his wife Auni. Many of these pleasures were put on hold for roughly 5 years while they did dialysis treatments at home. Dave had the great fortune to receive a kidney transplant in 2012 at OHSU, which allowed him to return to many of those activities. Reminiscing with "The Brown Dog" Sam, while walking the Brooks-Scanlon and Shevlin-Hixon properties was something he looked forward to for many years. He also experienced the great joy of being a grandparent. Papa is deeply missed by all!!

He was proud to be an American, proud of his military service, proud to be a native Bendite, proud of the house he built, but probably most proud of the family he built. Dave is survived by his wife of 56 years Auni, his daughter Kristina, his son James, his daughter-in-law Heather, his grandson JJ, his granddaughter Mandy and his sister Mary.

Family gatherings at his favorite hunting & fishing spots will be held later.

Memorial Contributions may be made to a local Veteran's Nonprofit or a charity of your choice.

Niswonger-Reynolds Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.

541-382-2471

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album*



**Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery** - May 18, 2023 at 02:46 PM

JP

“ *David "Dave" Michael Miller*

**Jenny Petersen** - May 30, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *I had the honor to work with Dave on projects over the years at the mill he was always a pleasure to work with! Rest In Peace Dave!*  
*Ron Blair*

**Ron Blair** - May 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *David "Dave" Michael Miller*

**Carol & Ted Bjork** - May 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *David "Dave" Michael Miller*

**Rick Bailey** - May 25, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ So many memories and thoughts I'd like to share about Dave. I will always remember the smile, the sense of humor, and kindness. I will always be grateful that he and Auni took me in during the summers I was in Central Oregon, how he called out of the blue after my dad passed to ask if I wanted to go deer hunting, how he showed up out of the blue to till my garden when I was too sick to do it myself. I will always hold his memory dear and wish Auni, Kris and James comfort at his passing.

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**Rick Bailey** - May 25, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Uncle Dave: We are going to miss you more than you probably realized. We all have so many memories of the time we spent with you and Auni, both in Bend and for the short time you lived near us in Portland. It was rough on all of us when we were transferred to California. It says a lot that as teenagers Becky, Jerry, and I could take off in our cars and go anywhere. But we almost always headed to your house in Bend. Our Dad said we were yours for rescue and car repairs once we hit the Oregon border and our various cars put you to the test many times! We have forever memories of those trips in the "Bourbon" truck to the outposts of Central Oregon, and memories of the vacations with you at Lake Mayfield where we watched the various family boats go out, and then counted those being towed back in for repairs. Auni, Kristina, James and family: Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We will join you in honoring our Uncle Dave as soon as you're ready. Love, Debby

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**Debby Prentice** - May 25, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ David "Dave" Michael Miller

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**Becky Prentice** - May 22, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ Dave became our official "Uncle Dave" when he married our Aunt Auni while our family was living in Bend. He instantly became uncle to 3 nieces and a nephew, and he handled it well! His time in the Forest Service meant he knew all the lesser-known attractions and backroads of the area, and would take us on trips to out-of-the-way places like Fort Rock, Hole in the Ground, Frog Lake. These created lasting memories of our time growing up in Bend. As adults, Uncle Dave was our go-to historian when it came to getting the insider stories of people and life in small-town Bend, before it became a Central Oregon metropolis. He will be sorely missed at our family events and gatherings. With much love from Becky Prentice & all the Prentice family

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**Becky Prentice** - May 22, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ David "Dave" Michael Miller

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**Bend Funeral Homes** - May 21, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ When I think of Dave I think of the phrase "mellow fellow". Kind, with a quiet sense of humor mixed with strong opinions about life. May the Lord comfort the family during this time. Bernie and Doyle Goolsby

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**bernie Goolsby** - May 13, 2020 at 12:00 AM