



Miller (Mike) Johnson

August 16, 2015

Miller (Mike) Johnson, age 81, a resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico, passed away on Sunday, August 16, 2015. Mr. Johnson was born in Memphis, Tennessee. He is survived by his wife Marilyn; his daughter, Andrea Kathleen Jones and her husband Paul; granddaughters, Michelle, Amber; great-grandson Stevie of McKinney, TX and grandson Matthew of Plano, TX. He is also survived by his brother, Stanley; his niece Joy and her two daughters; his niece Nancy Hoppenstedt and her husband George and their three children all of Evansville, Indiana. Miller leaves many cherished friends, among them extra special dear friends, Marge and Norman Luckenback of McKinney, TX. Miller was a graduate of Art Center School in Los Angeles (now Art Center College in Pasadena, CA) where he majored in transportation/industrial design. He worked at Ford, Chrysler and American Motors in Michigan designing cars. Some renderings of concept cars he did at American Motors in the 60's appeared in the Collectible Automobile magazine in 2013 and 2015. One of the most fun projects he did at AMC was the design of the Gremlin logo. After he moved to California in the early 70's, Miller joined the Toy design company, Innova in Playa del Rey. Miller was a skilled photographer along with doing free-lance design projects for a number of companies. Miller truly enjoyed his opportunity to share a studio-shop with Edgar Schmued, the renowned designer of the P-51 Mustang fighter plane of WWII. The last ten years before he retired in 1992, he worked at Mattel Toy Company in the Hot Wheels department. Among other projects he worked on,

Miller designed Hot Wheels playsets. At all the workplaces, he was known to have keen/wry sense of humor and was famous for his caricatures of his co-workers. Miller was truly multifaceted – designed automobiles, murals, caricatures, magazine covers, birthday and other special occasion cards. He designed a miniature golf course and his retirement house in Albuquerque. His interests included airplanes, macrophotography, extraterrestrials, auras, mystics, spiritualists, meditation, Danish Modern furniture, swimming, sunbather, race cars. New Mexico was the perfect place to retire to follow his intense interest in extraterrestrials. He became one of the founding members of the Roswell UFO Museum. Among several exhibits he contributed, the large mural that was made from his original drawing still hangs in the museum today.

Tribute Wall

CT

“ *My dear Marilyn,
Thank you for sending me the sad news. I had the Albuquerque Journal right there on that page. I am sending you love and sympathy and many, many prayers. Love,
Caroline Thompson*

Caroline Thompson - September 11, 2015 at 12:10 PM

FB

“ *Dear Marilyn, I extent my condolences to you and the family of Miller. I enjoyed the many years we met annually to review taxes. Miller had quite an impressive career with his art and design. Best wishes to you and the family. Sincerely, Frank Burke*

Franklin Burke - September 07, 2015 at 01:12 PM

BL

“ *We'll miss Miller. He was a great guy and outstanding.
Bob Leslie*

Bob Leslie - September 06, 2015 at 08:20 PM

RD

“ *What an amazing gentleman and gentle man! Miller left us with many memories of his multifaceted life. He lived graciously by sharing his talents, creativity and knowledge with family, friends and most of all, his loving, giving wife, Marilyn. Please know Marilyn - we will be thinking of you now and in the days to come and will send prayers and healing thoughts your way. God Bless! - Rose & Don Ditmore*

See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/abqjournal/miller-c-johnson-condolences/175748533?cid=full#sthash.H10G0Spl.dpuf>

Rose and Don Ditmore - September 06, 2015 at 05:12 PM

RY

“ Miller was a great friend and coworker. I have so many fond memories of him and I will miss his sense of humor and wit. We had such fun planning our retirements at Mattel and sharing drawings of our houses that we were designing for retirement. Distance limited our ability to get together but we enjoyed corresponding which we did almost daily. I am truly privileged to have known him.

Rick Young - September 06, 2015 at 10:17 AM

MJ

“ I love you and miss you, Miller!! Our 32 years of many wonderful memories will always be in my heart.

Marilyn/Yoko Johnson

Marilyn Johnson - September 06, 2015 at 10:05 AM

DB

“ Miller was a very special man, to say the least, and we will always miss his friendship, wit, and overall charm. -- Donald and Mollie Burleson

Donald R./ Mollie L. Burleson - September 06, 2015 at 09:13 AM

SW

“ Heartfelt condolences, Marilyn. We were so impressed with the details of Miller's house design and placement that we incorporated what we could when we built our house. He was truly a talented man.

Sharon (from Dr. Algermissen's office) and Jim

sharon ward - September 05, 2015 at 10:11 AM