



Orville "Buck" Miller, a lifelong resident of Coal City, Illinois, passed away peacefully Monday morning, May 20, 2019 at his home surrounded by family. Survivors include his wife, Marlene; children: Bill (Marcie) Miller of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Pam (Joe) Faletti of Coal City and Amy (Chris) Aichele of Morris; grandchildren: Andrew Miller (fiancé – Lizzie Smith) of California, Tony Miller of Chicago, Matt Miller of Colorado, Danielle (Danny) Cassani and Rachel Faletti (fiancé – Michael Ciccarelli), both of Coal City, Ben (Maggie) Aichele of Morris and Jake Aichele of Wilmington; great grandchildren: Emma Aichele, Darien Rath, Keegan Clampit and Jadyn Cassani; one sister, Lorraine "Jane" (Dale)



Larson of Coal City; one sister-in-law, Barbara (Richard) Irvin of Pontiac, and several nieces and nephews, as well as numerous cousins and friends. Buck was preceded in death by his parents, and five siblings: Lola (Bill) Wilson, Gibson C. Miller, Elsie (Clyde) Thorsen, Hank (Julie) Miller and Clyde (Marilee) Miller. The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway (one block north of Illinois Route 113) in Coal City on Thursday, May 23, 2019, between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Buck will then lie in state Friday morning, May 24, 2019, at the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 East McArdle Road in Coal City from 9:00 a.m. until the time of funeral service 10:00 a.m. Reverend Brad Shumaker will officiate, and burial will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery. Pallbearers will be: Andrew Miller, Tony Miller, Matt Miller, Ben Aichele, Jake Aichele and Michael Ciccarelli. Honorary Pallbearers will be: Sam Gervase, Bill Wilson and Jim Wilson. Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Buck's memory to Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Waterstone Circle, Joliet, Illinois 60431, Coal City United Methodist Church Building Fund, 6805 E. McArdle Road, Coal City, IL 60416 or to LBDA (Lewy Body Dementia Association) 912 Killian Hill Road, S.W., Lilburn, GA 30047. Family and friends may sign the guest book, upload photographs or share Buck's memorial page online by logging onto: [www.ReevesFuneral.com/notices/OrvilleBuck-Miller](http://www.ReevesFuneral.com/notices/OrvilleBuck-Miller). Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City. (815-634-2125)



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Please visit [Reeves-Baskerville.com](http://Reeves-Baskerville.com) to connect with friends and family, sign the guestbook, and send private condolences. Reeves & Baskerville are exclusive providers of the Life Story Experience™.

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**ORVILLE 'BUCK' MILLER**

## ORVILLE 'BUCK''S LIFE STORY

All who knew Orville "Buck" Miller would agree that he was truly extraordinary. He worked hard in everything he did, and although he accomplished great things he was so very humble and generous to those around him. It was no secret that Buck was married to the love of his life, and together they witnessed their family tree blossom to include numerous branches of loved ones they both treasured. A longtime resident of the community he loved, he was the sort of person everyone seemed to know. Buck leaves behind a timeless legacy that his loved ones will proudly carry on in his footsteps.

Life during the 1930s was anything but easy as the entire decade was cloaked in the hardship of the Great Depression. Jobs were scarce, the unemployment rate soared, and things only became more serious with a drought that covered our nation's heartland for nearly two years during this time. Despite the trials around them, Clyde Gibson and Lucille Katherine (Colson) Miller had much to celebrate as they welcomed the baby boy they named Orville Adelbert into their hearts and home on April 30, 1939, at the family home on Walnut Street in Coal City, Illinois. The youngest of seven, he was joined in his family by his siblings, Lola, Gibson, Elsie, Hank, Clyde, and Lorraine "Jane." Buck's father worked for the Clay Pit while his mother was a busy homemaker.

Raised in the family home on DeWitt Street in Coal City, Buck was a bustle of activity right from the start. He attended the Methodist Church with his family, and he was often the one to ring the bell, which would lift him from the ground! He was active in the Boy Scouts, and he was also one of the youngest to earn his Eagle Scout at the age of 13. Buck also belonged to the Order of the Arrow, and he was involved with the Boy Scouts throughout his life as he became a Scout Master as an adult. As a student Buck attended local schools. He played basketball in junior high, and in addition to holding down his studies in high school he worked as a pin setter at the bowling alley. It has also been said that Buck was known for getting into his fair share of shenanigans with his friends. While in high school, Buck met the woman who would forever hold the key to his heart. Her name was Marlene Rogers, and they were smitten right from the start.

Buck didn't finish high school as he was recruited by Junior Perona and joined the United States Navy, entering into active service on July 5, 1956, after his junior year. He served aboard the USS Ticonderoga, and during this time he corresponded by letters with Marlene. In addition to writing letters, Buck would also send her gifts from abroad such as a grass skirt from Hawaii and a jewelry box from Japan. After returning home



from active service, Buck spent a short time working at the paper mill. He later took a job with Caterpillar Tractor Company in the Joliet plant. Buck started out on the Burr Bench and continued to spend his entire 37-year career with Cat, retiring as a heat treat engineer / foreman in 1995.

There was never anything that was of greater importance to Buck than his family. On Christmas Eve in 1958, Buck proposed to Marlene. They were married on September 26, 1959, in New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City on the same wedding date as his parents were married. The newlyweds initially lived next door to his parents on DeWitt, but in 1964 they moved to a home at 275 West Fourth Street on the new North side of Coal City, which was known as "mortgage road" at the time. Buck and his brothers built this home, and it was where they not only put down roots but also where they raised their family that grew to include three children, Bill, Pam, and Amy. This was also the place they called home for the rest of Buck's life. As a family they enjoyed family vacations to Disney, Colorado, and Mexico, and later in life he was so thrilled to become a grandfather and great grandfather. Buck and Marlene were there to support their grandchildren in their activities, and he loved both keeping their long-standing traditions as well as creating new ones. Every Christmas at the Miller's began with making wreaths and cookies, and ended with Buck and Marlene's "famous kiss" to conclude the opening of gifts. In addition to providing for his own family, Buck helped with Marlene's parents as they became older and needed assistance.

Throughout his life Buck was one to keep busy. After retiring from Caterpillar Tractor Co., Buck took on a new job cutting the greens and playing golf with his buddies at Cinder Ridge Golf Course. In addition to golfing, Buck also enjoyed woodworking, having made tables, jewelry boxes, and baseball bats among other things. When they weren't traveling with family, he and Marlene created countless memories traveling domestically and abroad, both together and with friends. In their travels, Buck would be known to friends as "Wrong Way Adelbert." Around home, Buck could often be found gardening and spending time in his yard. He loved capturing moments and memories by taking video and movies as well as still photos. As his family and friends can attest, Buck was a huge fan of John Wayne movies. In fact, he would often imitate John Wayne to the grandkids saying, "This place ain't big enough for two of us." Buck was also known for saying, "It's time to head back to Coal City," and, "I'm just resting my eyes."

With unending love for his family, Orville "Buck" Miller created a life and family he was so proud of. He worked hard and gave everything his all as he was the sort of person others knew they could count on. Always punctual, Buck was forever on the go, his days filled with amazing experiences with the people he loved most. Deeply treasured, he will be forever missed.

