

# Wildwood Flower

Song by Carter Family

I will twine, I will mingle my raven black hair  
With the roses so red and the lilies so fair  
And the myrtle so bright with it's emerald hue  
The pale and the leader and eyes look like blue

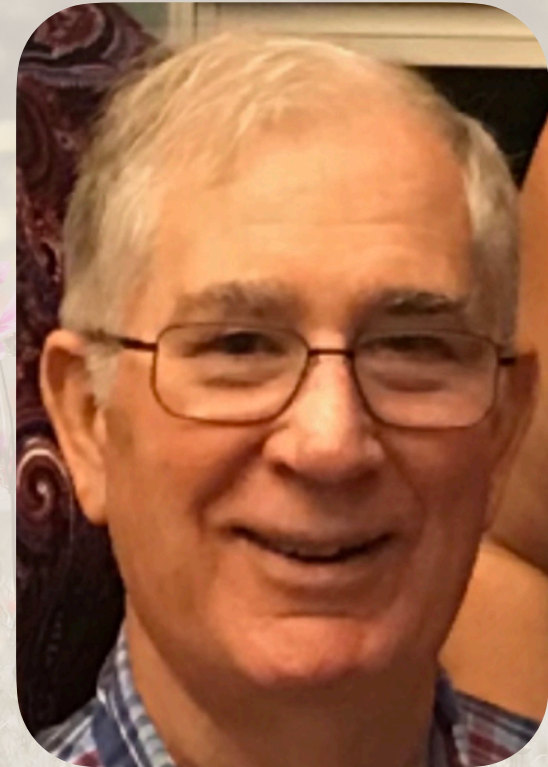
I will dance, I will sing and my laugh shall be gay  
I will charm every heart, in his crown I will sway  
When I awoke from my dreaming my idol was clay  
All portion of love had all flown away

Oh, he taught me to love him and promised to love  
And to cherish me over all others above  
How my heart is now wondering no misery can tell  
He's left with no warning, no word of farewell

Oh, he taught me to love him and called me his flower  
That was blooming to cheer him through life's dreary hour  
Oh, I long to see him and regret the dark hour  
He's one that neglected this pale wildwood flower

Joseph “Joe” Rankin Miller

11/10/1943 – 4/13/2023



Fleming Island United Methodist Church  
Saturday, April 22, 2023

# Joseph “Joe” Rankin Miller

1943 to 2023

Joseph Rankin Miller was born in Marion County, Mississippi, on November 10, 1943, to Roy and Lizzie Deen Miller. He spent his childhood playing and working on a farm with his eight siblings. His cousins were his best friends and he often shared tales about their adventures growing up together. His childhood friends and family call him by his nickname, “Jody.”

Joe was a veteran of the US Navy, serving during the early 1960’s as a radarman on the USS Perry; he was stationed at Mayport Naval Station and had tours of duty in the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. While back in port, unwinding at Jax Beach with his friends, Joe met his wife, Sharon Raulerson. They married on April 14, 1966, and had two daughters, Melodie and Jennifer.

Joe had a lifelong love of learning. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from the University of North Florida and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Athens State University in Alabama. He earned his Certificate of Public Accounting (CPA) and was licensed in Alabama.

Although Joe worked for the Seaboard Coastline, JEA, and the Veterans Administration, he had a long career with the US Army Corps of Engineers. He specialized in new construction and renovation of hospitals and military bases. He worked globally, which gave the family an opportunity to live in Saudi Arabia and Germany. Joe, Sharon, Melodie, and Jennifer traveled extensively through Europe and the Middle East, experiencing different cultures and learning the history of the many countries they visited.

Joe was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was the kind of husband and father that would hold everyone’s purse and packages, patiently waiting (sleeping) in the department store chair for hours. He also took an active role in the lives of his grandsons, Sawyer and Sander. He participated in their day-to-day activities, was a willing tutor, a prompt chauffeur, and taught them many of life’s skills.

Joe liked music, especially classic country. Although he didn’t have a natural ear for music, he enjoyed strumming the guitar, which he taught himself to play, perfecting a few songs. “Wildwood Flower” was one of his favorites to play.

He liked to read. Joe often read the classics like Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, and Mark Twain; however, he really enjoyed unraveling a good mystery. Books by David Baldacci and Lee Childs and TV marathons of NCIS were his favorites. He also loved a good western, usually starring John Wayne or Clint Eastwood.

Joe will be dearly missed and remembered for his gentle manner, interesting stories, and love of family.

Joe is survived by his wife, Sharon; his daughters, Melodie and Jennifer; his grandsons, Sawyer and Sander; his sister, Clara (Bobby) Sanford and brother, Roy Deen (Jacque) Miller; and numerous nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents; his brothers, Thomas, Terrell, Talmadge (Boot), and Robert; and his sisters, Gail and Annette.

## Celebration of Life

*The Family invites anyone who wishes to share a story or memory of Joe to share them or use the paper on the tables to write them down.*

Welcome .....Rev. Faith Parry

Eulogy.....Betsy Haslett

Spiritual Reflection.....Rev. Faith Parry

\*Stories & Memories.....

Closing Prayer & Blessing.....Rev. Faith Parry

Lunch .....

*The Family thanks you for attending and honoring Joe today. He will be buried in the family cemetery in Mississippi at a later date.*