



Merlin is survived by his children and their spouses: Cheri and Neal Hudson, Diane and Jim Patton, Kevin Miller and Herb Acevedo; his stepchildren and their spouses: Wyatt and Mary Ann Hoch, Keith and Gail Hoch, Brenda and Jay Bohnenblust, Dalyn and Mark Cantrell; his sister, Patricia, and her husband Lowell Yoder, and a brother-in-law, Glenn Gayer. Merlin is also survived by 15 grandchildren: Colby, Riley, Cara, Adele, Logan, Erin, Lauren, Braden, Kaelin, Ashley, Whitney, Heidi, Katelyn, Casey, Cristen; and nine great-grandchildren. Merlin was well-loved! He is now reunited with his three wonderful wives, and we hope for his sake it isn't awkward.

*In Loving Memory*  
CELEBRATING A LIFE



*The family thanks you for your friendship and support during this difficult time. If you would like to offer a memorial donation, checks can be made to McPherson College, The Cedars, or First United Methodist Church.*

*Hope Strength*

*Stockham Family Funeral Home*



**In Loving Memory**  
**Merlin J. Miller**  
September 10, 1931 - October 13, 2022





## *A Celebration of Life for Merlin Jay Miller*

**First United Methodist Church  
McPherson, Kansas**

**Monday, November 21, 2022, at 10:00 AM**

### **Officiants**

Rev. Emily Spearman Cannon  
Rev. Chris Whitacre

### **Musical Selections**

"I See A New World Coming" by Steve Engle  
*quartet: Cara Hudson, Jay Warner,  
Dan Mason, and Wylene Lengel  
accompanist: Amy Warner*

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by J.S. Bach  
*performed by Amy Warner on organ & flute  
and Jay Warner on cello*

Prelude & Postlude by Amy Warner on organ

### **Honorary Bearers**

Wyatt & Mary Ann Hoch    Keith & Gail Hoch  
Brenda & Jay Bohnenblust    Dalyn & Mark Cantrell

### **Ushers**

Glenn Gayer    Brian Reynolds

### **Final Resting Place**

Monitor Church of the Brethren ~ McPherson, KS

Alan Stucky, officiant

"Taps" by Mark Casebeer, trumpet  
*(prior to service)*

### **Luncheon & Fellowship**

Following the memorial service, all are invited to join the family for food and fellowship in Hess Hall at the church.

Merlin Jay Miller's love for jigsaw puzzles was representative of his character. He was a patient optimist, a highly organized mind, a loyal partner, a fixer of things, a man of many talents who led a colorful life.

Merlin was born to Mary Fern Eby Miller and Edgar Jay Miller in Troy, Kansas, on September 10th, 1931. He grew up with two sisters: Letha and Patricia. The family moved to Marshalltown, Iowa, in 1939, where Merlin spent most of his early years. He became a high school graduate in 1950, then attended McPherson College.

In 1953, Merlin was working for Coca-Cola while dating Delma Joan Cline. Unfortunately, Coca-Cola would not give him two weeks off to travel to Kansas and get married, so he quit his job. The couple was married on August 28th, 1953.

Merlin received his draft notice on the same day his father passed away. He served in the Army for two years. Merlin and Delma's first daughter, Cheri Lynn, was born in 1956 at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, where Merlin was stationed. Once his service was complete, Merlin moved with his family to McPherson, Kansas, which would be his home for the next 65 years.

Merlin and Delma had their second child, Diane Kay, in 1959. Their third child, Kevin Jay, was born in 1963. Merlin was a dedicated father. Cheri, Diane, and Kevin remember their dad leading the 4-H club, coaching softball teams,

playing tennis, and even slalom water skiing one-handed on family vacations! The family faithfully attended Monitor Church of the Brethren. In 1960 Merlin took a job for the NCRA, where he would work for the next 33.5 years until his retirement in 1993. On February 27th, 1989, Merlin lost his wife to breast cancer. Merlin and Delma were married 35 years.

On January 20th, 1990, Merlin married Reta Raleigh Hoch Gubser. Merlin and Reta were active members of the First Baptist Church. While he was married to Reta, Merlin began playing golf, woodworking, and rock hunting. On March 1st, 2004, Merlin lost his second wife to multiple myeloma. Merlin and Reta were married 14 years.

On August 17th, 2008, Merlin married Jody Clinesmith Dombaugh. They were active members of the First United Methodist Church. While he was married to Jody, Merlin became a dog-lover and learned to play Bridge. The couple enjoyed attending McPherson College ballgames and theatre performances. Though he had already suffered more than his share of grief, Merlin lost his third wife on October 23rd, 2021. Merlin and Jody were married 13 years.

In his last year of life, despite a relapse of bladder cancer, Merlin spent his time playing golf, winning cornhole tournaments, playing pool with friends, exercising at The Cedars' fitness center, and doing jigsaw puzzles with his family. Merlin passed away on October 13, 2022, with his family near him.