



Milt Papke

January 11, 1932 - April 8, 2015

Milt Papke was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on January 11, 1932, to Ada (Miller) and Elmer M. Papke and entered into eternal life on Wednesday, April 8, 2015.

Upon the early death of his mother, he made his home with Helen and Arthur Miller in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. He distinguished himself in sports cumulating in being elected to the Fergus Falls Sports Hall of Fame in 1993. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1954 where he played on the basketball and golf teams. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers in 1954 and was stationed at Fort Belvoir, VA where he met and married his wife the former Mary E. (Bette) Beckner in 1956. Milt was a resident of the City of Fairfax for forty-nine years before moving to Gainesville in 2006. After retiring from active military duty he worked in management for thirty years at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He also served thirty years in the U.S. Army Reserves where he served in various capacities including Headquarters Commandant, Commander Special Troops, and DARCOM Deputy, Inspector General. Colonel Papke's Army awards included the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Services Medal. In addition, Milt was a former president for Cardinal Basketball Officials Association and held the job as commissioner for twelve years. He officiated high school, military, junior college and recreational basketball games for over thirty-five years. He was the golf coach for both Paul VI Catholic High School

(27 years) and Fairfax High School (17 years). He enjoyed seeing young people develop and learn to love the game of golf as much as he did. He was named the Washington Post All-Met golf coach of the year in 1998. Colonel Papke was a member of the Army Navy Country Club, St. Leo's Catholic Church, the American Legion, and the Fraternity of St. Francis de Sales. Milt enjoyed a wonderful life with family and friends and participating in the activities he loved as well as always helping others.

Milt is predeceased by his daughter Heidi Papke Walters. He is survived by his wife of fifty-eight years and their six children Mary (Ron) Knuuti, John (Connie) Papke, Karen (Joe) Fuller, Susan (Danny) Wade, Amy (Kevin) Craig, David (Dawn) Papke, son-in-law Vince (Jill) Walters, fifteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

The family will have a short vigil service at 7:00 p.m. followed by a visitation from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on April 27 at Saint John Neumann Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston, VA. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. on April 28 at Saint John Neumann Catholic Church with a reception immediately following at the church. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery will take place on a future date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Coach Milt Papke Scholarship Fund established at Paul VI Catholic High School in his honor. Contributions can be sent to Paul VI Catholic High School, 10675 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22030. ATTN: Coach Papke Scholarship Fund.

Condolences may be left at www.piercefh.com

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA 22211
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/>

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 27. 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)

St. John Neumann Catholic Church
11900 Lawyers Rd
Reston, VA 20191

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John Neumann Catholic Church
11900 Lawyers Rd
Reston, VA 20191

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Milt and I were basketball officials with the local association in the northern Virginia area and worked many games together. We were also co-commissioners for a couple of years in which we assigned officials for local high school basketball games. No matter how tough the situation seemed to me, Milt always had that infectious smile followed by some kind words of encouragement. Milt was great at remembering families of the officials and what was going on with them. Often when an official would call he would ask "how is aunt Millie doing" or "didn't your son just have a new baby", etc. One of his proudest officiating moments came when he was awarded the Ralph Gordon Award, the highest honor an official can achieve in our association. Most of all, Milt loved his family and he enjoyed talking about them and sharing how much they meant to him. You will be missed my friend, Cecil Hurst

Cecil Hurst - April 28, 2015 at 06:37 AM

NW

“ Nancy and Randy Wade purchased the Sympathy Fruits Abound for the family of Milt Papke.




Nancy and Randy Wade - April 26, 2015 at 08:26 PM

NW

“ One of my favorite Thanksgivings included not only my family (the Smith's and the Wade's) but a portion of the Papke family! Of course Susan was there as part of the Wade family, but also in attendance were Milt, Bette, Marci, Ron and daughter Kerry (?). It was so wonderful to see my parents, Carol and Charlie and Milt and Bette visiting - we have some great pictures of that weekend. I specifically remember Milt sitting in the rocking chair that sits on the hearth in the kitchen. He thanked me for inviting them, and told me what a good time he was having. I am lucky to have such a loving 'extra-extended' family!

Nancy Wade

Nancy Wade - April 26, 2015 at 07:16 PM

 Chris Capbert

“ Growing up Mr. Papke would on occasion substitute teach some of my classes at Westminster School. Each time I was always so excited to see Mr. Papke knowing that I got to spend the day with him. He used to referee my youth basketball games and I can still remember him running up and down the court with us always with a big smile on his face loving every minute. Later on in high school, it was an absolute honor to know him and to play for him on the Paul VI golf team. His passion and love for the game and for life was contagious. I'll never forget the time he caught a few of our players doing "log rolls" down a fairway during practice one day. He talked to our team after practice that day and that was the last time anyone did "log rolls" down fairways on a golf course. We loved Mr. Papke and it was always comforting having him over your shoulder helping you read the green on a big putt. I will definitely be thinking about him the next time I'm out walking the course. My sincere condolences go out to Mr. Papke's family, he was an awesome man and he will be missed by many.

Chris Capbert - April 22, 2015 at 08:25 AM

BB

Milt was a great friend and will miss him! Bart

Bob Bartolomay - April 25, 2015 at 07:00 PM

RA

“*My name is Ryan Abenante and Mr. Papke was my high school golf coach at Paul VI High school from '94-'98. Just seeing this picture of him is tough and brings back so many memories for me as I was standing just a few feet away from him when it was taken...in fact those are my golf clubs he is posing with. Even the shirt he is wearing there is our "uniform" Ashworth golf shirt with the PVI emblem on it.*

To me, he was a stern yet gentle guy that was there for me throughout my entire golf career. He stood by me, encouraged me and always supported me by having me over for dinner with he and his wife, walking the course with me through every tournament, being by my side while both of us were inducted into the 1st Team All-MET & PVI Hall of Fame, sitting next to me when I was signed by a D1 college to calling me to congratulate me or console me after future golf tournaments. He always thought of me and his special interest in me meant so much and I feel good knowing that I told him so all the time.

He was first a mentor that became a long time friend...just an all around solid guy that all of his players enjoyed being around. To this day, when I talk to some of the old guys from that high school team, we laugh and tell great "Papke stories" which usually ended up with him laughing at us and saying "Judas Priests" in there somewhere.

My sincere condolences to his family! He lived a long full life but I'll miss him fiercely.

Love ya coach!

Ryan Abenante - April 21, 2015 at 07:32 PM

GU

“ Milt,
You are one in a Million you will truly be missed with your sense of humor and your keen wit. It is a pleasure to have known you for the past 25 years while working in Athletics at PVI.

May God have a special Golf Course waiting just for you.

Gary Underhill - April 20, 2015 at 07:14 PM

TH

“ Here in Fergus Falls, Minn., we are proud to note that Milt was among our native sons. He was an outstanding high school athlete and, as noted in the obituary, he was inducted into our Fergus Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Sports Hall of Fame in 1993.

We also are proud of the many accomplishments that Milt exhibited in his career with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and with the U.S. military.

He always remembered his roots here in west central Minnesota and visited here often. He was so grateful for Art and Helen Miller raising him after the death of Milt's mother. Milt and his family were back here to honor Art on Art's approaching 100th birthday.

Milt's humble and gentle nature will be remembered.

Condolences from Tom Hintgen, Fergus Falls Chamber of Commerce Sports Hall of Fame Committee

Tom Hintgen - April 19, 2015 at 04:46 PM

KB

“ dear bette and family~ my heart goes out to you in the loss of milt. he was such a wonderful friend for ALL the years to my parents keith and jo cole. your visits back to fergus falls meant the world to them, they always enjoyed being in your company and dad always cherished milt's phone calls. i will keep you gently wrapped in my prayers, wishing you peace in the days ahead...

in love and friendship,

kristi cole boe

kristi boe - April 19, 2015 at 12:25 PM

CB

“ My dad Buzz Bennett loved Milt. Milt was so great to my dad. When Buzz suffered his stroke last September, Milt was constantly calling and talking about the old University of Minnesota days with him. Those calls served as an enormous distraction (in a good way) for Buzz who was going through a lot. I had the chance to chat with Milt on many of those calls and you could tell that he truly cared for him and was deeply concerned about his condition. I will always remember that.

Cab Bennett

Cab Bennett - April 19, 2015 at 08:36 AM

BS

“ *Life is so hard, and painful when the most loved, caring and truly great people leave our lives. That hole in the core of our souls can only be repaired by blessing it with loving memories. May your grieving be filled with his examples of how to go on with a happy life with living family and friends.*

Brenda Siegel - April 19, 2015 at 08:00 AM

RW

“ *Rhett W. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Milt Papke.*



Rhett W. - April 19, 2015 at 07:10 AM