



## Irene Marian (Vesser) Miller

October 8, 1920 - February 25, 2017

Irene Marian V. Miller, 96, Shawnee, Ks, died Feb. 25, 2017. Born Oct. 8, 1920 in Coeur d ' Alene, Idaho, the year women got the vote. She voted in the 2016 election for Hillary Clinton, hoping to see a woman president with liberal values elected. She was preceded in death by her parent Edwin Crockett Vesser and Irene Harper Vesser; brothers Ed (Agnes) and Fred (Neila); husband Lee Miller and daughter Daryl Davey and her dogs, Bendi and Jasmine. Survived by daughter Candace Scott (Loren), grandchildren Samantha Le (Viet), John Davey IV (Masha), Devon Davey (Brian), and great-granddaughters Vivian Rose Le and Cassandra Daryl Davey, and nieces Neila Kaye and Paula, and nephews Ron, Ross, Ed, and Fred, and son-in-law John Davey the 3rd. Irene lived in 8 states and visited many countries, but her favorite place was San Francisco. When Lee was overseas in Africa/Sicily (WWII), she worked as a secretary there. Lee and Irene returned to Kansas City and his family after the war. When he died in 1978, she moved back to SF. She rejoined Candace's family in Shawnee for 26 years. She bought a big house with trees, peonies, and clematis which she always wanted.

Irene and Lee met in Boise, Idaho and married in Colorado Springs, December 22, 1942. Irene was rooming with two girls. Even though Irene was recovering from having her tonsils taken out, Lee decided that he wanted to date her, not the blind date he went out with that night. They loved to dance to Big Band music. Both were good dancers and Irene was light on her feet and

could follow. They lived on Mercier Street near the Plaza, in Meadow Lake Subdivision in Johnson County, one of the first and Bel Aire Heights in Overland Park.

Irene always had many friends. She was close with her girl cousins, sisters-in-law Neila and Miriam, Fran and Vicky in San Francisco during the war, neighbors in Pacifica, Pacific Grove, and KC (Anzi), work and music “chums” and friends from Lakeview townhomes. When encouraged to make more during the last years of her life, she always insisted that she had made enough already.

In a letter to her grandchildren she said, “ I haven’t told many lies in my life. Just a few courtesy white lies to avoid hurting someone’s feelings. I’ve never stolen, cheated on tests, knowingly did anything to harm another person. But, I have stupidly make lots of wrong decisions and unintentionally slighted and hurt people. I have a tendency to mull over these actions and wish I had done differently. So, I don’t really like the expression ‘forgive yourself’ but that is probably exactly what I should do.” Irene was honest and modest but too self-critical.

She worked as a legal and medical secretary for a federal judge and at KU Medical Center. She was great at shorthand and her typing was fast and accurate with perfect spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Irene had played clarinet in the Coeur d’ Alene band and orchestra and competed as a soloist. One fond memory was of the director telling her brother Ed and her that he thought she was a better clarinetist. Also, she surprised one director who though she was making some mistakes on a difficult passage. After the first clarinet and then she played it separately, he was stunned that she, not the first chair, played it perfectly. She had missed playing the clarinet so Lee told her to buy a good one and take lessons to

renew her skills. She took lessons from Bob Luyben and then gave clarinet lessons for him. She played the clarinet for Russell Patterson in the Conservatory of Music Band and the initial Lyric Orchestra at the Kimo. She wrote a note saying that this was "such a fun time" because Candace got to play last seat in the third chair with her. She also played with the Civic Orchestra where she made friends with Fred Harris and Phyllis Glass. One memorable performance was when she played the part of the cat in Peter and the Wolf for the Johnson County Civic Orchestra. Lee knew nothing about music, but when Candace told him she was the cat, he became nervous which tickled Irene. She hoped Vivian will love music as she did since she bounces to the beat of the music. She created and sold intricate Barbie and American Girl doll clothes for craft fairs. Earlier she sold baby doll clothes to a Brookside doll shop. She never sewed real outfits for her children even though she made Candace's entire 3rd grade class fancy bunny hats with ears for an Easter show at Somerset. They were kept for several years. She also made Samantha a fancy princess dress and fifties poodle skirt for Halloween and father-daughter dance.

She lived in her own home until the end with assistance from Candace who was close to her. She loved playing games with friends. She was good at Scrabble and didn't let even her grandchildren win. She watched birds, the Royals (Patek, White, Butler, Perez) and Jayhawk basketball (Morris twins, T. Robinson, Mason, Graham). She watched every minute even if the team didn't look as if they could win. A sweet woman, she loved her family and supported their activities but worried about them like only a Vesser could. Irene is enjoying a fresh start with all her loved ones. A celebration of her life will be held Sunday, May 21, at Maple Hill Funeral Home in Kansas City, Kanas between 3:00 -5:00 P.M.

# Cemetery Details

## Maple Hill Cemetery

2301 S 34th St  
Kansas City, KS 66106  
(913) 262-6610  
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

**MAY 21.** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home  
3300 Shawnee Dr  
Kansas City, KS 66106  
(913) 831-3345  
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com  
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of Irene Marian (Vesser) Miller*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - May 04, 2017 at 05:26 PM



“ *Irene Marian (Vesser) Miller*

October 08, 2023 at 10:59 AM

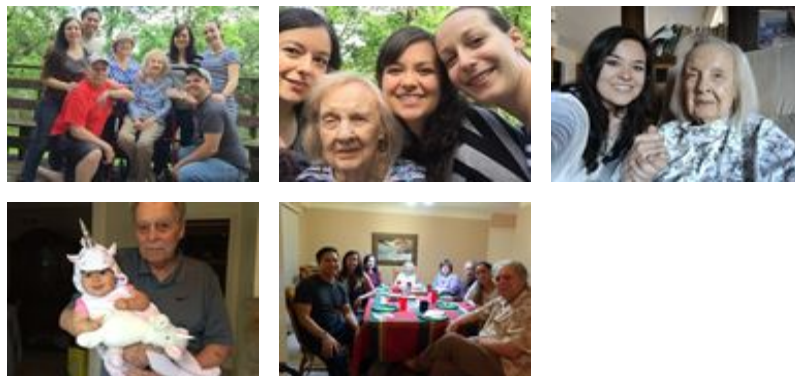


“ *Irene Marian (Vesser) Miller*

September 17, 2022 at 08:24 PM



“ *108 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - May 04, 2017 at 05:20 PM