



Edna Lucille Miller

February 7, 1925 - March 8, 2023

Remembering Lucille Miller, Dead at 98.

Every Southern small town has iconic people who stay their entire lives and leave a mark on four or five future generations. Bald Knob had one of these in Edna Lucille Miller, 98, who passed away peacefully in her sleep on March 8.

Lucille was preceded in death by her only husband James Frank Miller and grandson Devon Robert Miller. She is survived by James Hugh (Jim) Miller of Bald Knob and Robert Frank (Bob) Miller (Lece) of Bald Knob; James Hugh (Jamey) Miller III (Tina) of Judsonia; granddaughter Whitney Linden West (Josh) of New York City; great-granddaughter Sarin Miller; great-granddaughter Alexandra West and great-grandson Bradley West.

Lucille (“Lou,” “Nana” or to many of us “Mama Lou”) was born on February 7, 1925, in Vanndale, AR, to Jennings Clifford Lillard and Mary Jane (McClintock) Lillard. She had two sisters: the late Dorothy Newberry of Arkadelphia and Agnes Sharp of Little Rock. The family grew up in the small town of Uptonville, TN, during the Great Depression, where they had a small store, farmed and raised chickens and hogs. Lucille managed the house chores and attended school in nearby Mercer, where she graduated Mercer High School.

The sisters’ Aunt Jessie arranged for them to move to Little Rock and attend Draughon School of Business for Women. One evening, a friend and her date took Lucille along. Driving to Hilltop Lounge in Little Rock for a night of dancing, they spotted a young man dressed in a navy uniform crossing the

street. The date said, "Hey, I know that guy," rolled down his window and invited the sailor to join them. That sailor was Frank Miller.

During their early marriage, Frank was stationed in the Navy in Little Rock while Lou finished her studies and graduated Draughon.

Afterward, she worked as Head Bookkeeper/Secretary for the Whiteco Strawberry Processing Plant and later as Bookkeeper for the Bald Knob Water Department. But most people far and wide knew her from the Bulldog Restaurant owned by Bob and Lece for 40 years. Lucille was instrumental in developing the menu for the Bulldog, from catfish batter to BBQ sauce (requiring 43 taste tests until she was satisfied they had a winner).

It was her strawberry shortcake, however, that won her notoriety far from home. Throngs of people, some driving from as far as Nashville and Baton Rouge, descended on Bald Knob each April through August to get their shortcake fix from Lucille's secret recipe, perfected with her mother-in-law Lyda Miller. The delicacies were a cross between airy little pie crusts and barely sweetened cookies the diameter of a baby's pacifier. Consistency was what made Lucille a consummate Southern cook, no matter who or how many she was feeding.

But what made her iconic in this small town was her feisty love of life. You didn't want to get sideways with her, but she could go to bat for you and win against the biggest adversary. She was a saucy pistol, unsinkable, impeccably dressed in her day, hair always coiffed, with a distinctive Southern lilt heavy with Tennessee. She worked hard, loved to golf and host Bridge Club, where she served killer custard pies made from scratch, casseroles and ambrosia. She was like a flamenco dancer with a Spanish rose in her teeth; sexy, coquettish even in her late 90s – holding court and imparting wisdom acquired over decades of lemons and lemonade till the day she died. More than a few sought her counsel over the years – young and old.

But her relationship with the youngest generations kept her ageless and timeless. Granddaughter Alex found in her Nana someone fun-loving she learned to trust implicitly. They played dress-up in Nana's clothes (Lucille was

about half as tiny as a child herself), her high heels and bright red lipstick. "Nana," three-year-Alex said one day, "I need to tell you a secret but you have to promise not to tell anyone!" Nana promised. "I wet my bed," Alex whispered. And Nana without blinking said, "Well honey, I wet my bed, too!" Their bond was sealed.
Rest in peace, Lucille.

A memorial service will be held on April 6, 2023, at 10:30am, at the Bald Knob United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bald Knob United Methodist Church, 307 West Center Street, Bald Knob, Arkansas 72010.

Cemetery Details

Shady Grove Cemetery

Bald Knob Lake Road
Bald Knob, AR 72010

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 6. 10:30 AM (CT)

Bald Knob United Methodist Church
307 West Center Street
Bald Knob, AR 72010

Tribute Wall



“ *I did not know Lucille until reading her well-written obituary. My sincere condolences to her family.* ”

Byrdie McSwain - April 13, 2023 at 01:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edna Lucille Miller.* ”



April 04, 2023 at 11:13 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Edna Lucille Miller.* ”



March 28, 2023 at 10:51 AM

VB

“ *Condolences to the family. I have fond memories of special times spent at the Bulldog with family and friends. Mrs Miller's coconut cream pie. It was the best I've ever had. If I happen to be home for my birthday mom would buy me a coconut cream pie instead of a birthday cake! My Aunt Jean called Mrs Miller and ask her for the recipe. She was so sweet and told Aunt Jean that since I lived in Florida she would give me the recipe ! I was so happy. Love to the family. Thinking of all of you*
Valerie Odom Brackman

Valerie Brackman - March 18, 2023 at 08:26 PM

CH

“ *Ms. Miller was always kind and treated me special. I will miss her. She was the best cook ever. My favorite was her chocolate delight pie and of course her pecan squares. My prayers are with the family. She will be greatly missed.*

Carol Hooper - March 17, 2023 at 04:07 PM

SW

“ *I don't even know how to start ! First Bob& Family I want you to know how sorry I am for your loss! I loved that little spunky lady like she was my own ! We had so much fun at the Bulldog & some very serious talks to ! She could make my day so much better with her sweet smile ! Will miss she so much ! Till we meet again Ms.Lou! Love you all !* ❤️🙏🙏

Sherry Waller - March 16, 2023 at 09:22 PM

GV

“ As an employee of the Bulldog, when this lady came in to make lemon squares, nobody was allowed to watch or peek over her shoulder to see ingredients she threw together. Over the years, I often and still, to this day, wish I had that absolute divine recipe for her prideful, out -of- this- world lemon squares! Lightly sifted powdered sugar on top, of course! Bob and Lece, prayers are en route for the whole town of Bald Knob. Beautiful obituary!

Gail Vessells - March 15, 2023 at 12:31 PM

DR

“ I absolutely loved Mrs.Lou!! She was so much fun to work with all those years at the Bulldog. I loved getting to see her after I moved on to working at the Drug Store....she still had that beautiful smile and we always took time to catch up. She will truly be missed, she was one of a kind!! Loved her dearly.

Debbie Roberts - March 14, 2023 at 10:56 PM

MJ

“ Bob and Lece I am so sorry for your loss. I have a lot of good memories of her when I worked at the Bulldog. I have talked about her chocolate pie so many times. It was the best!! Prayers for the family.

Michelle Alexander Joyner - March 14, 2023 at 07:53 PM

MD

“ Such a beautiful obituary and beautiful lady. It's so sad she had to go. Prayers for the family. Rest in peace, Lucille.



Margaret Davis - March 14, 2023 at 05:47 PM

MF

“ Prayers for the family and special hugs to Jamey and Tina



Michela Fowler - March 14, 2023 at 05:44 PM

FC

“ I read the obituary and it describes Lucille to a T. She was spunky with a little fire, worked hard and successfully at anything she did, energetic without frenzy, fun loving and fearless, a cook with the hospitality to share her delicious fare. Lucille enjoyed her life and all who shared it with her. I have been on her bad side a couple of times and she quickly let me know it. It didn't last long. Lucille was a friend, loyal, and fun company whatever the occasion. RIP dear, longtime friend.

Frances Clark - March 14, 2023 at 03:18 PM

LB

“ Leah Brooks lit a candle in memory of Edna Lucille Miller



Leah Brooks - March 14, 2023 at 12:25 PM

SM

“ This is one lady that stays deep in my heart. She asked if I wanted to go shopping in Little Rock. Let me add, I was 16. She pulled up at my house and said, “ you’re driving “! Lucille trusted a sixteen year old that was hyper to drive her. One amazing lady that we all love. Water tank hill family-love from the Bolding Family

Stephanie Bolding Martin - March 13, 2023 at 07:36 PM

PD

Sorry to hear of Mrs Lucille's passing, my prayers for the family!

Peggy Defoure - March 13, 2023 at 07:49 PM

FM

So very sorry to hear for the passing of your loved one. God bless each of you.

Frances (Parsons) Murray - March 14, 2023 at 11:44 AM

BB

Dear Jim and Bob, this is just the strangest thing, because for the last week I have been thinking of your Mother and wondered how she was doing. I have so many wonderful memories of her when she and my Mother were friends, playing bridge and all the other activities! Remember the teen club she, my Mother and Miss Bitty started so we would have a place to go and dance on the weekends? So many good memories of growing up in a small town! Even though I've been gone from B.K. for over 50 years, a part of my heart will always be there. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Becky Wunnenberg Bryant

Becky Wunnenberg Bryant - March 15, 2023 at 03:12 PM

LC

Lece, Bob & family. She will missed. Mother always enjoyed going to her house to eat and visit. She was one of a kind Lady. God Bless!!

Lechelle Cross - March 17, 2023 at 09:43 AM

EG

I worked a long time for Bob and with Lucile loved that lady she was a great lady that was my favorite job I have ever had

Evelyn Prekins Grubbs - March 23, 2023 at 04:21 PM