



## Raymond K. "Rockin Ray" Miller

May 7, 1939 - May 11, 2019

Raymond K. "Rockin Ray" Miller, 80, of Timberlake, passed away on May 11, 2019 with his sons and wife by his side. Ray was stricken suddenly with severe pancreatitis and bravely battled the disease for seven weeks before being called home by the Lord. He was born, May 7, 1939 in Cleveland and over the years resided in Mayfield Village, Cleveland, Eastlake and Timberlake. He was a 1957 graduate of Mayfield High School and was a U.S. Army veteran.

Ray was an integral part of the Cleveland rock and roll music scene in the 1960s playing lead guitar for Tom King & The Starfires, Joey and the Continentals and most famously for The Twilighters, who packed in crowds of up to 1,000 every weekend at local dance clubs. Their song, Be Faithful, was a top 15 regional radio hit. Ray retired from the City of Cleveland in 1988 after 30 years with Cleveland Public Power, working his way from junior draftsman to commissioner.

After retirement, Ray spent his time writing country and polka songs, usually with a comedic slant. His polka, Grab Your Balls, We're Goin Bowling, was an international hit and has been called by some as "the greatest polka song ever." You can find several cover versions of the song on YouTube. Ray also liked to share funny and political posts on social media; liked spending time with his many lifelong friends from high school, the band days and work; and liked listening to rock and roll music from the 60s and 70s. Most of all he loved spending time with his family, especially his 8-year-old twin grandsons. Ray was a happy soul who always tried to bring laughter into peoples' lives.

Ray is survived by his wife of 56 years, Diane Miller (nee Matic); sons, Daniel (Kim) Miller and John (Heather) Miller; and grandchildren, Justin, Daniel, Jennifer (Megan Boggs), Matt and Ryan Miller. He is also survived by his loving sister, Joann Keyston; sister-in-law, Janet Matic; nephews, Mike (Carol) Shaw, Scott (Heather) Cleland and Cameron (Linda) Cleland; and nieces, Terri Massucci, Marlene Seuffert and Cindy (Cory) Wilson. He also leaves behind many great nieces and nephews and a host of wonderful friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Keith and Dorothy Miller; sisters, Virginia Stalker and Noreen Jorgensen; nephews, Billy Benton and Carl Stalker; nieces, Linda Ippolito and Tina Shaw; and brothers-in-law, Fran Stalker, Craig Jorgensen and Lanny Keyston.

The family will receive friends from 1-5 pm on Sunday, May 19 at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor. Cremation will take place at Ray's request.

Please offer condolences at [www.brunners.com](http://www.brunners.com).

# Events

---

**MAY**   **Visitation**                      01:00PM - 05:00PM

**19**

---

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center  
8466 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, OH, US, 44060

# Comments

---



“ Such sadness to have lost such a wonderful and soul.  
Ray was loved by so many. He was a great co-worker and a beautiful human being. Always had a smile and kind words to all.  
I'm so sorry that I found out 8 months later of his passing. This was hard to take because he was the guy that we thought would live forever.  
So many funny stories, poking fun at co-workers, a person you could trust. He was the world's best secret keeper, and would always promised not to tell a soul. He loved hanging out with us younger people in the cafeteria on our coffee breaks. He said it made him feel young again.  
I can still see that smile as if it were yesterday.  
Rest on peace Cowboy.

**Bet Zmi** - January 26 at 05:35 PM

---



“ Shocked and sorry to hear about Ray passing. Our deepest condolences to Diane and family. Rest in peace, Ray. Lots of great memories!  
Jeff and Antionette Gould

**antionette gould** - May 21, 2019 at 10:03 AM

---



“ See you Sunday...keep Rockin'...an important person in my life.

**Randy Brown** - May 17, 2019 at 02:12 PM

---



“ Shocked and saddened by the news of Ray's passing. Prayers to his family. We enjoyed our time working with him and will remember him every time we perform "Grab Your Balls We're Going Bowling." Rest in Peace Rocking Ray! Ray Zalokar, The Casuals.

**Ray Zalokar** - May 17, 2019 at 12:04 PM

---



“ Ray, I was so proud to have you for five years as my rhythm guitar player for the Elvis Ladd show! I will always remember you as an inspiration and all around great guy!! I will cherish the audio and video recordings I have with you! rest in peace my friend!

**GLEN WALKER** - May 17, 2019 at 06:16 AM



“ What can one say about a great guy and funny classmate. I'll miss his humorous posts on Facebook. An all around super guy!

**Rose Balawender Newman** - May 16, 2019 at 05:24 PM

---



“ Your sister, Joann and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Raymond K. "Rockin Ray" Miller.



**Your sister, Joann and family** - May 16, 2019 at 01:20 PM

---



“ My memories of Ray go back to the early sixties when he and Steve Popovich and Randy Brown brought me into their band. Those were great days for me and Ray was always uplifting to be with and Rocked as his monicker indicates. He was a great friend and a great musician. Looking back I am taken with his enduring commitment to his music and especially to his family and friends. I'll see you on the other side where u know your shining bright. Love to you Diane and family. What a beautiful couple you are forever. God bless you and Ray in our hearts now and forever. Richie Luvworth and family

**Richard Somrak** - May 16, 2019 at 12:57 PM