



Mr. Harold Lloyd Miller Jr.

July 23, 1946 - January 4, 2018

Harold Lloyd (Sonny) Miller Sylvester, GA

Harold Lloyd (Sonny) Miller, 71, of Sylvester GA (formerly of St. Augustine, FL) died Thursday, January 4, 2018 at Willson Hospice House, Albany, GA. In keeping with his wishes, a private memorial service will be held by his family at a later date.

Mr. Miller was born in Oakland, CA where his father was serving in the US Navy in WWII. After the war, his family moved to Hialeah, FL where his mother died when he was one-year old. He was raised by his grandparents until his father remarried a lady from Sylvester, GA who was working in Miami. Sonny attended Hialeah High School and at a very young age was interested in working on automobile engines and became a top-notch mechanic. His expertise was noted by an investor in high-performance race boats who hired Sonny to become part of a race-boat team involved in worldwide racing events. Sonny rapidly became a key member of this team. By 1966 at age 20 he was a member of a 3-man team (Miller, Lewis, Carlton) that won the prestigious Viareggio-Basta-Viareggio race in Italy using a 27-ft Thunderbird-class boat "Thunderbolt."

In 1971 he was part of the team winning the Key West race in a Roger Hanks boat "Blonde II." In 1972 his team, headed by Dominic Visconsi, was a leader in the Long Beach CA Hennessy Cup race running a 36-ft Cigarette boat "Popeye." In 1973 at age 27 he became a partner in MSV Inc. (Miller, Sacanti, Visconsi), a boat-building company in Hollywood FL that produced the first big

44-ft offshore powerboats such as the “LaTortuga.” By 1976 Sonny was designing race-boat hulls such as Joe Halpern’s 38-ft Cobra-class boat “Beep Beep.” Racing in Sardinia between Spain and Italy, Sonny was at center-throttle position on a 3-man team (Theodoli, Miller, Filippo) racing a Magnum 27-ft “Starfire” which came in third behind the winner (a 35-ft Cigarette). For this race Mr. Filippo received a trophy from the Yacht Club of Costa Smeralda. In the 1980’s Sonny moved to Monte Carlo, Monaco (located on the Mediterranean Sea between France and Italy) where he operated his boat business serving European and Mid-Eastern customers with engines and outdrives for race boats and luxury yachts. In the early 1990’s Sonny returned to the US due his son’s medical condition and moved to Sylvester, GA where his father, step-mother, and sister lived. He continued to operate his CAL500 boat and engine company in GA with satellite operation in St. Augustine, FL until he retired in 2016 due to illness. During his time in GA, Sonny was well-known in the race-boat community for his marine design and engineering abilities and for the reliability of his outdrive systems that transmit engine power to the propeller. This expertise allowed his company to serve worldwide customers including the US Navy concerning fast-boat transport requirements. Sonny also was a real-estate developer building town-home subdivisions in Miramar, FL and Worth County, Ga.

Throughout his business years, he maintained his close friendship with Billy Rodrigues of Miami, FL who was an engineer and race boat enthusiast. Sonny also returned to Europe on several occasions for race-team reunions. One of the most special reunions was at Viareggio Italy in July 2016 when he saw his old friend Marco Bertini and enjoyed talking of their times together building and racing power boats. Sonny had a passion for making engines more reliable and fuel-efficient. In the latter part of his life, this passion led Sonny to design an engine that would use conventional fuel/energy to initially start engine motion, but thereafter would run on magnetic energy/force fields and require no further fuel. Using powerful magnets with a thousand-year lifetime, Sonny with his assistant and son, built a magnetic-engine prototype

that verified his concept could work and Sonny obtained patents for this design. Sonny envisioned thousands of users would one-day use the design to generate reliable power without fossil-fuel pollution for their homes and businesses. Unfortunately, Sonny's illness snuffed out a life aimed at doing something markedly good for the earth and its inhabitants while at the same time doing much toward solving the classic engineering problem of producing an engine that runs without needing additional fuel.

Sonny was preceded in death by his father Harold Lloyd Miller Sr., his mother Virginia Grace Button Miller and his stepmother Frances Miller. He is survived by his estranged wife Laura Miller of St. Augustine FL, son Alex Miller of St. Augustine FL, daughter Olivia-Marie Miller of Leesburg GA, son Marc Miller of St. Augustine FL, and daughter Kim Miller Velasquez of Ft. Walton Beach FL. He is also survived by his grandchildren Kameron Broussard of Lafayette LA, and Carlos, Cerina, and Kai Velasquez all of Ft. Walton Beach FL, his aunt Sis Miller of Pompano Beach FL, his sister and brother-in-law Sandy and Larry Almand of Sylvester GA, his niece Debra Smith of Sylvester GA, and his friend/caregiver/assistant Raymond (Hopper) Tobin of Sylvester GA who looked after Sonny with great passion and expertise during Sonny's final years. All of Sonny's family and friends will miss him greatly!

Those desiring may make a memorial contribution in Sonny's honor to the charity of their choice or to Willson Hospice House, 320 Foundation Lane, Albany GA 31707, Phone 229-312-5621.

You may sign the online guest book and share your thoughts with the family by visiting the Kimbrell-Stern website at www.kimbrellstern.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Sonny and I went to school at Hialeah High. Sonny converted my 56 chevy Belair from an automatic transmission to a 3 speed floor shift for 20.00. Sonny was a good guy and excellent mechanic, way ahead of his time. I lost track of him over the years, but it seems like he had a great career. RIP PAL!* ”

George Hameetman - November 10, 2024 at 03:02 PM



“ *Mr. Harold Lloyd Miller Jr.* ”

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *Mr. Harold Lloyd Miller Jr.* ”

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Prayers and condolences to the Miller family. May God comfort you in this time of grief and healing.* ”



Cindy Lowrey - January 06, 2018 at 07:45 AM