

MARJORIE MILLER(1912 - 2015)



July 27, 1912 - May 31, 2015 **OKLAHOMA CITY** Marjorie Ruth Miller, one of Oklahoma City's most beloved teachers of the past century, passed away on May 31, 2015 at the age of 102. Born July 27, 1912 in Noble, Oklahoma, she lived most of her life near North 36th and Penn Avenue in the same house for over 90 years and most recently lived at Legend at Rivendell Assisted Living Center. Miss Miller graduated from Northwest Classen High at the age of 16 and received her Master's Degree from OU when she was just 21. The following year, 1934, she started her lifetime career as a dedicated teacher of Latin, English and Spanish in Hartshorne, Oklahoma and the following year returned to OKC where she taught at Foster High School until after World War II. She then taught at Taft Junior High until 1956 and spent

one year at Northwest Classen High School before being asked to join Harding High School in 1957 where she taught until it closed as a high school in 1968. She then taught at Northeast High School where she retired in 1978. She has been recognized on many occasions as an excellent and exceptional teacher. Harding was reopened in 2003 as a charter school, and in 2009 the alumni association established a scholarship in her honor. Former students often visited her and sent her cards and letters throughout her life and continued to keep in touch through her final days. During the celebration of her 95th birthday, more than 200 people stopped by to wish her well. Her home was always a show place of flower and vegetable gardens with hundreds of plant varieties. Marjorie shared her harvest in the fall and grew seedlings in the spring for anyone who would like to start a garden or just plant a tomato or two. When children would visit her home, she was quick to ask them which flowers they would like to have and allowed them to cut even the best to keep or give to their mothers. She spent countless hours volunteering at the OSU Horticultural Center in OKC as well as working on many projects to beautify the city. Marjorie was a Lifetime Member of the Master Gardeners and gave many years helping to teach the programs to new Master Gardener students as well as managing many associated gardening projects. She was a member of numerous horticultural and flower groups and loved to travel to view gardens throughout the USA and Europe. Marjorie always had a front row seat on the bus for garden tours. She received the OKC Beautiful Lifetime Achievement Award and was one of the first recipients of the Oklahoma Icon of Gardening Award. Marjorie had a true love for classical music having achieved concert performance level as a violinist by age 16. She regularly attended the operas in Dallas and Tulsa and on occasion in San Francisco, New York City, and London. She had a vast collection of recorded music and was a sponsor of the opera program on KCSC Radio and was a founding member of the Civic Music Association Of Oklahoma City, an organization that brought world talent and artists to Oklahoma City. Her teaching career and other public achievements were again recognized when she was honored as one of the outstanding Oklahoma Women of the Twentieth Century. Her love for travel and learning the culture and language of various countries, took her to Europe 18 times - she was over 90 when she took her last trip to Italy. She would incorporate what she had learned from her travels into her class lessons - as one student put it - she made the dead language of Latin come alive for us. She also enjoyed photographing flowers on her travels and had thousands of labeled slides, with both common and botanical names (that she could easily pronounce), that she used while teaching gardening classes and giving presentations. Her teaching career and other public achievements were again recognized when she was honored as one of the outstanding Oklahoma Women of the Twentieth Century. Miss Marjorie Miller was a true lady, dignified in every way, who was never shy about rolling up her sleeves to help others and to be available for someone in need. We honor her with our fond memories of her. Marjorie is survived by her close friends Lyle and Eileen Henry, Kent and Cathy Swanson of Oklahoma City, Robert Thompson of Tulsa, and innumerable friends who are scattered about the world. A Celebration of Life is planned for Miss Miller in the auditorium at her beloved Harding High School (3333 N. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73118) on June 20th at 3PM. All are welcome to attend.

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