



## Benny R Miles SR

January 1, 1931 - June 18, 2023

IN MEMORY OF:

BENNY R. MILES, SR.

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive (Old Route 13), Murphysboro, Illinois

Benny R Miles Sr., aged 92 years, passed from this earth peacefully on Father's day at 5:45 pm, June 18, 2023 at his home in Desoto, Illinois after a long and meaningful life in the warm and loving embrace of his family.

Benny was the first baby born in Jackson County on January 1st, 1931 to Charles F and Josephine M (Wright) Miles in Grand Tower, Illinois. His mother was on the Choctaw rolls making Benny 1/4 Native American. He grew up during the Great depression with 17 siblings. His youth was spent swimming in the Mississippi river, running and hunting in the woods and bluffs of Pine Hills and Happy Hollow, helping his dad work the family garden, and committing general pranks and mischief with his brothers.

Benny graduated from Grand Tower H.S. class of '49'. After high school he drove a truck for R.E. Masters & Foundation Construction Company working

on construction of the Grand Tower Power Plant.

When the Korean War started Benny joined the United States Navy where he received communications training and was a Radioman on the Destroyers USS Myles C Fox and USS Turner (DDR 834). He was awarded the National Defense Service and Navy Occupation Service Medals. Benny was honorably discharged in Nov 1953 achieving the rank of Radioman 3rd Class.

Benny married Nancy Louise Leonard December 3, 1954 in Rosebud. Benny and Nancy were married 69 years. They had 3 children: Jackie L. Koch (Ken), Benny J. R. Miles Jr (Danette), Matthew T. Miles (Kerri), and 9 grandchildren: Adam Koch (Ruth), Ashlee Pack (Carl), Mackenzie Sergoviano (Esequio), Jessy Herrell (Zach), Benny Miles III (Edwina Higgins), Daniel Miles (Ashley), Ethan Miles, Jacob Miles, and Lorena Miles, and many great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He is survived by one sibling, Betty Miles.

Benny worked as a truck driver, United States Navy-Radioman-Korean War Veteran, stock car racer, cafe owner, railway clerk, business man (Area TV repair, Miles trailer court, Ben Miles mobile home repair), lake marina operator, and after many years of "greasing the wheel", finally retiring from the Illinois Central Railroad in 1987.

Benny had an extraordinary and accomplished life. He was an electrician, plumber, carpenter, mechanic, golden gloves boxer, and clerk to name a few. In example he could type 120 words per minute, do 8 hours of work in 4 hours change a transmission, build a house, make the harmonica sound like a 5 piece band, would always help, and often sung "Time goes by so slowly".

During his long retirement he enjoyed time spent with family, traveling in his

RV, auctions, home projects, a good meal, the smell of coffee in the morning, beef bacon frying at a campsite in the Smoky Mountains, long conversations with friends, picking wild asparagus, poke, and mushrooms, as well as walking and maintaining a positive, fit, and active lifestyle.

He enjoyed meeting people and could drink coffee and "shoot the breeze" with the best of them. He was an excellent storyteller. He led an economical lifestyle and knew how to negotiate the best price for goods and services.

Benny was a good son, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, husband, father, father-in-law, and grandfather being an exceptional caretaker, provider, disciplinarian, teacher, and best friend for his family all the days of his long life. After a lifetime of being "overworked, underfed, and underpaid" he finally gets a well-deserved rest.

In accordance with his wishes there will be no public service. He did not request clergy as he had a personal relationship with God. He did not wish any money to be spent on memorials. Please leave memories below. The family will have a private celebration of life and graveside full military honors at a later date. Being generally happy every day of his life he did not want to cause his friends grief. He also wanted no tears, too bad.

There are not enough words to adequately describe Benny. His strength and depth of character, authentic and honest demeanor, and colorful outgoing personality made him unique, there will never be another like him. He will be missed and remembered with the greatest love, respect, and affection by his family and those who really knew him. The best man I know. Thank you Dad.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home.



# Tribute Wall



“ *Benny R Miles SR*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *We live next door to Ben, and loved having him as our neighbor. He was always outside doing something, and we would often remark that he was so active and so knowledgeable, we definitely wanted to be like Ben. We will miss waving to him, and having him nearby. Our condolences to his friends and family. From, the Pensoneau-Conway family*

**Sandy Pensoneau-Conway** - July 01, 2023 at 05:03 PM



*Thank you for the lovely comments about my grandfather. I am sure he appreciated you as a neighbor too :)  
Benny III*

**Benny J Miles** - July 04, 2023 at 04:44 AM



“ *Benny Miles Sr., you are undeniably among the most extraordinary individuals I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Your impact on my life is immeasurable and your spirit will forever reside within my heart. The depth of affection and admiration I hold for you knows no bounds and it is with profound reverence and adoration that I express my unwavering devotion. I love you.*



**Danette Miles** - June 29, 2023 at 07:07 PM

BJ

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



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**Benny Miles Jr** - June 25, 2023 at 10:17 AM

JM

“ *In Loving Memory of My Beloved Grandfather and Dearest Friend.*

*Your absence is a void that cannot be filled, for you were not only a grandfather, but also the guiding light in my life. Memories of our cherished moments together bring both joy and tears, as I reflect on the profound impact you had on my soul. You were my confidant, my mentor, and the unwavering source of love that always embraced me. Through your kind eyes, I saw a world filled with wisdom, compassion, and unwavering strength. You taught me life's lessons with patience, instilling values that will forever shape my character. In your warm embrace, I found solace during the storms of life. Your comforting words were like a soothing balm to my weary heart, lifting me up when I stumbled and encouraging me to persevere. You believed in me, even when I doubted myself, and your unwavering faith became the beacon that guided me through both triumphs and tribulations. The laughter we shared echoed through the years, etching a melody in my heart that will forever play in my memories. Our adventures together, big and small, filled my spirit with wonder and taught me to appreciate life's simplest joys. Whether we were exploring new places or simply sitting in silence, your presence made every moment extraordinary. As I write this, tears fall, mingling with the profound gratitude I feel for having known you. The void you left behind is a testament to the immense love we shared, but it is also a reminder that our bond transcends the confines of time and space. You reside within me, guiding me still, and for that, I am eternally blessed. Benny, your departure has left an indelible mark on my soul, but I find solace in knowing that you are at peace, watching over me from a place where pain and sorrow no longer exist. The lessons you imparted, the love you bestowed, and the memories we created will forever shape my life. May your spirit soar free, guided by love's eternal light. Until we meet again, rest peacefully, my dearest grandfather, my forever best friend.*





**Jacob Miles** - June 21, 2023 at 09:48 PM

JL

“ He was always an important part of our family. We are all going to miss Benny.

**Jerry leforge** - June 21, 2023 at 12:17 PM

AS

“ I never knew Grandpa Benny could play the harmonica until one night we were sitting there and he whipped it out and started playing. He did it with such ease. My first trip to Golden Corral was with Grandpa Benny and Grandma Nancy and and finally got to see why he enjoyed it so much. Grandpa had such a witty personality and he never passed judgment. He will be missed by all but never forgotten. We love you Grandpa Benny ❤️❤️❤️ Ash and the Boys

**Ashley** - June 21, 2023 at 11:56 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Benny R Miles SR.



June 20, 2023 at 09:01 PM

BM

“ Love you always buddy.. -Benny III (Jack)

**benny miles** - June 20, 2023 at 08:56 PM

DA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Danette** - June 20, 2023 at 08:44 PM

BJ

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**Benny Jr** - June 20, 2023 at 08:07 PM