

Dr. Jonathan R. Miller, Jr.

Born: November 14, 1939 Passed: July 23, 2006

Dr. Jonathan R. Miller, Jr. of Brunswick passed Sunday July 23, 2006 after a short illness at Southeast Georgia Regional Medical Center. He was the son of Jonathan R. Miller of Waynesville, Georgia and Karen Henderson of Manor, Georgia. He became a fatherless child at age seven. He leaves behind his high school sweetheart and wife of 45 years, Harriette Quarterman, his son Jonathan R. Miller, III, his Grandchildren Ashley Alexandria, Jonathan R. Miller, IV, and Brooke Nicole, a sister Carolyn Horrigan, a brother, Jim Miller, and his best friend Johnny Ligon.

Dr. Miller never wanted to be known as a Doctor, just J.R. He graduated from Glynn Academy in 1957 where he was famous for his red-hot Ford and chasing after Frannie. Upon graduation he applied for a job at Brunswick Pulp and Paper and after being told by Sarah Hammonds that he would never be Brunswick Pulp and Paper material, he spent 4 years traveling the world in the United States Navy as a radio operator. While there, he learned he wanted to be one of the guys with stripes on his uniform and that he wanted to be home in Brunswick with Frannie. He attended the Georgia Institute of Technology, graduating in 1966 with a degree in chemical engineering thinking either Allied Chemical or Brunswick Pulp and Paper would hire him. When Sarah Hammonds still said no and Allied Chemical wasn't hiring, he went on to attend the Institute of Paper Chemistry where he received his doctorate, in his later years he attended the Harvard Business School.

After graduating with his PhD, Sarah Hammonds still would not hire him at Brunswick Pulp and Paper and he spent several years in Brewton, Al. working as technical director for Container Corporation's paper mill located there. While in Brewton he was President of the PTA (where he often attempted to humiliate his son) and President of the Jaycees where he implemented a program for Frannie to cook for convicted murderers and the children, at the family house, while armed guards stood by each door. Additionally, while in Brewton he was the head deacon and became the preacher at the Unitarian Universalist Church where he articulated the "uncertainty principal" of which as of this date, everyone is still uncertain. He then moved to Augusta, Ga. to become mill manager for Continental Can. All the while he longed to return to Brunswick. And after a stint as the Vice President of Kinark Corp. in Chicago, and having survived the blizzard of 1979, he returned to the Golden Isles working at the Rice Boro Plant. Finally, after 20 plus years of trying, Sarah Hammonds agreed to give J.R. a job as technical director at Brunswick Pulp and Paper Co.

Shortly thereafter he decided he was not properly utilizing his education in chemical engineering at Brunswick Pulp and Paper and opened the Bank Saloon. Eventually, not having enough chemicals to work with, he purchased the 7-11 Liquor store and opened the Brunswick Yacht Club. As Technical Director of Brunswick Pulp and Paper he implemented a program to eliminate the smell that had hovered above Brunswick for generations, as Commodore of the Brunswick Yacht Club he oversaw the first (and last) duck boat race.

Meanwhile Brunswick Pulp and Paper became Georgia Pacific Corp. and he ascended from technical director to General Manager of the Brunswick mill. His first official act as General

Manager was to inform Sarah Hammonds, his next-door neighbor by then, of his position. As general manager he developed Golden Isles Fluff Pulp, a specialty pulp that has propelled Brunswick's mill into the 21st century while its neighbors to the north and south have had to shut down from foreign competition.

During his tenure in Brunswick he was a Board member of the Brunswick - Glynn Chamber of Commerce and longtime chair of the government affairs committee, a Board member of Coastal Georgia Community College Foundation, a Charter member and Commodore of the Brunswick Yacht Club, a Board member of Downtown Development Authority, a Board Member of Coastal Area District Development Authority, a member of the RDC, a member of the Rotary Club, a member of the B.P.O.E. Elks lodge 691, a member of the Red House, President of the Wednesday night living dangerously club, and honorary member of the Magnolia Garden club. According to Ken Tollison, J.R. was also Chairman of the annual Chamber Washington fly-in and was the poster boy for the anti-beach renourishment contingent. For some reason he never could get them to understand that sand is a viscous liquid and will sink to its lowest point which is not the beach but the bottom of the Saint Simons sound.

J.R. loved downtown Brunswick and worked tirelessly to see to its revitalization. As a boy he would tell his mother, a seamstress at Peter's Male apparel, that one day he would own a building downtown. He committed to the city when he decided to raise his children in Old Town Brunswick and rehabilitated one of Brunswick's older homes. And true to form he owned not one, but three of Brunswick's downtown buildings, as well as 14 other older homes. While rehabilitating these properties, J.R. maintained a hands on approach, rather than leaving things to the contractors. And as a result he discovered two inalienable truths of contracting, when the boards didn't quite line up, he would offer the adage, "the eye integrates" and if the gap was more than the eye could take, "the painters will get it."

After working as General Manager for two years, Georgia Pacific sent J.R. to Atlanta as director of International acquisitions. That job took him all over the world, yet all he wanted to do was be home. After retiring from Georgia Pacific he utilized his international connections to become Industrial Director and a board member for Advance Agro Ltd., a Thai paper company. While residing in Thailand he oversaw the fastest growing industrial park in Asia and it's flagship paper mill. But the creation he was most proud of was the Library at Pong Phai school dedicated to the Millers. Also, while in Thailand he continued the educational work he started at Coastal Georgia Community College by assisting the administration at Prachinburi Technical College, Mari Whitty School and Hathaichat School. He also worked with the young Thai and Chinese college graduates to master the English language, known in Thailand as Tingish.

Dr. Miller always said "you know the people who have had an impact on your life, but you never know the impact that you have had on others." In that spirit J.R. was the type of man who would give you the shirt off his back. He worked tirelessly for his employees at Brunswick Pulp and Paper and Advance Agro. He gave generously to the community of Brunswick and while in Thailand. The family hopes that he will be remembered in that spirit.

Honorary Pall Bearers include all members of the Brunswick Yacht Club, the Glynn Academy

Class of 1957, Members of the Chamber of Commerce, Members of B.P.O.E. Elks Club, Members of the Red House, All past and present employees of Brunswick Pulp and Paper/Georgia Pacific, All past and present employees of Advance Agro, All members of the First Presbyterian Church, Johnny Ligon, and anyone else we may have inadvertently left out. A memorial service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, Brunswick at 4:00 PM Sunday, July 30th, 2006 with a celebration of J.R.'s life to follow at the Elk's club.

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