



## Mary Ellen Miller

September 25, 1932 - January 7, 2026

Mary Ellen Miller, 93, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on January 7, 2026. She was born on September 25, 1932 to Clara and Edward Grant. She married Leonard Miller on March 30, 1973.

She is survived by her children, Butch (Cheryl) Worden of Missouri, Darla Martin of Peoria, Deb (Jeff) Brinsko, Denise (Ken) Flora of Peoria, and adopted in love to Laurie (Art) McKinley. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Susan Grant, 15 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren, and 9 great-great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, her daughter and son in law Debra (Tom) Margetich, son David Worden, brothers Edward (Donna) Grant, Bob Grant, and Ester (Dave) Worden, grandsons Patrick Schultz and Josh Thompson.

Mary Ellen was a remarkable woman raising 5 children on her own. They didn't have a lot of money growing up but she made every holiday or birthday special. Mary Ellen loved her family whole heartedly and enjoyed family gatherings immensely. She was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan. She accomplished many things in her lifetime from raising her children to learning how to wood carve. She was an amazing cook and her baking was out of this world. She wasn't one to sit still, retiring from 3 different jobs. She also volunteered at Red Cross.

Mary Ellen will be missed tremendously for her wisdom, solid advice, and loving nature. She was so special to her family and friends. She went through many things in her lifetime but always had a positive outlook and was kind to everyone. She was adored by anyone who knew her. Her children had the utmost respect for their mother as she was mother and father to them all. She would always take time to listen to her children, give them the wisdom of her advice, cry with them, or just be their sounding board. As a grandmother she was top notch. She enjoyed watching her grandkids grow into adults, having families of their own.

We could never put into words what Mary Ellen meant to all of us. We love and miss you so much already and our family will forever mourn the loss of this amazing woman.

Services will be held at Northwoods Community church on Friday January 16th with visitation at 10 AM and services followed at 11 AM with Pastor Cal Rychener to officiate. Memorials can be made to Red Cross or Northwoods Community Church.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JAN **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Northwoods Community Church  
10700 N Allen Rd  
Peoria, IL 61615

*Memorial Service to Follow at 11:00 AM*

# Tribute Wall

 Saerah  
Worden

“ *I couldn't have asked for a better grandmother.*

*I remember watching her get ready when she worked at Silver Dollar City. She was so beautiful. We all called her " Grandma Strawberry " because her kitchen used to be decorated with strawberries, lol. My kids called her that, too.*

*Before I had my first child - at my baby shower - everyone wrote down little pieces of advice for me. Grandma wrote " Temper everything with love. " What an incredible piece of advice. Not just for parenting - but for life. I have always done my best to follow that advice.*

*I always will, Grandma. I promise. ♡*

---

**Saerah Worden** - January 13 at 04:18 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen Miller.*



---

January 12 at 04:11 PM

KT

“ My heart is absolutely broken at losing my gma. She was one of the most remarkable women I've ever had the privilege to not only know her but be her granddaughter. My gma was kind and gracious even when she had every right not to be. She was an amazing cook and I will forever miss sharing new kitchen gadgets with her and swapping recipes. Our world will never be the same without you gma but I know you are no longer in pain and for that I am grateful. Thank you for always being there supporting me always. It was my honor to help take care of you these last several years, we made some of the best memories. I love you gma and will miss you always

Kerri

---

**Kerri Thompson** - January 09 at 09:47 PM

PD

“ My heart is broken with the loss of my dear friend Mary. I met Mary at Silver Dollar City where she worked as my assistant for 10 years. I left SDC and became the general manager of the Branson Mill Craft Village, where Mary worked as my assistant for another five years. She was not only the best employee I ever had, but was also the best and most amazing friend anyone could ask for. She was very loyal and no matter what always had my back. I also became very close to her kids, they are all just like my family. Mary and I had a lot of fun times together and I'm so thankful God put her in my life. There will never be another one like her. I will miss her tremendously and I will never forget her. I love you, Mary.

---

**Patty Duckworth** - January 08 at 05:18 PM

IM

“ My great grandma, grandma strawberry ☐ I remember visiting her and playing her piano until she'd have to tell me to stop it and play with the Alexa instead. ☐ 🍓

---

**Isabella McLemore** - January 08 at 04:13 PM