

**Subject:** Harding Class of 1965 - Harding Latin teacher Marjorie Miller

**Marjorie Ruth Miller**, one of Oklahoma City's 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. She most recently lived at Legend at Rivendell Assisted Living Center in Oklahoma City.

A Celebration of Life is planned for Miss Miller at Harding Charter Preparatory High School on **June 20th at 3:00 p.m. in the Harding Auditorium** (for those of you attending our 50th Class Reunion, this Celebration has been planned around our Reunion activities. It will be held @ 3:00 just after our tours of elementary schools. It will not be a long service.)

Miss Miller became a dedicated teacher of Latin and English after receiving her Master Degree from the University of Oklahoma at the age of 21. She started her teaching career in 1934 in Eastern Oklahoma and the following year returned to OKC where she taught at Foster High School until 1940. She also taught at Taft, Harding during the 60's and then later at Northeastern where she retired in 1978. Her favorite years as a teacher were spent at Harding Preparatory High School where she taught Latin and English, a school where Marjorie had herself attended as a high school student.

Marjorie was honored many times over by her students and received several commendation during her career. There is a classroom and scholarship named for her at the now Harding Charter Preparatory High School. Her life was devoted to her students, many of whom went on to become doctors, lawyers, scientists, space engineers, writers, and accomplished in all walks of life.

Former students often visited her throughout her life and continued to keep in touch with her through her final days. During the celebration of her 95th birthday, more than 250 people stopped by to wish her well,

including students from her early years of teaching, friends from gardening clubs, and friend from music appreciation groups.

At Christmas she would receive hundreds of cards from her former students. Miss Miller had a knack for remembering her students by name and had something kind to say about each - which is remarkable considering she taught for over 40 years.

Miss Miller was an only child and lived with her mother after her father died when she was just 21. Her home of nearly 95 years was always a show place of flower and vegetable gardens with hundreds of plant varieties. Marjorie had a green house where she spent many hours starting new seedlings that she shared with anyone who would like to start a garden or just plant a tomato or two. When children would visit, she was quick to ask them which flowers they would like to take home. Her place was on the Garden Tour for Coinsures. She generously shared her vegetable harvest from her marvelous garden.

Gardening was her favorite past time and Marjorie spent countless hours volunteering at the Oklahoma State Horticultural Center in OKC as well as working on many city projects to beautify Oklahoma City. Marjorie was a Lifetime Member of the Master Gardeners and spent 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 growing groups including the Oklahoma Horticulture Society and Oklahoma Iris Society. She loved to travel to view various gardens throughout the USA as well as England and Europe. Marjorie always had a front row seat on the bus for garden tours in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and other destinations.

She received the OKC Beautiful Lifetime Achievement Award and was one of the first recipients of the Oklahoma Icon of Gardening Award. Her achievements were recognized and she was honored as one of the outstanding Oklahoma Women of the Twentieth Century.

Miss Miller loved the opera and for decades had season tickets to the Dallas and Tulsa Operas and attended opera productions in San Francisco, New York City, and London. She had a vast collection of recorded opera and was a sponsor of the opera program on KCSC.

Miss Miller was a founding member of the Civic Music Association Of Oklahoma City, an organization that brought artists and professionals to Oklahoma City. She was a great supporter of classical music and had achieved concert performance level as a violinist by age 16.

Another passion of Marjorie was her love to travel and spend time learning the culture and language of various countries. Her travels took her throughout North America and to Europe 18 times (the last trip when she was over 90), as well as North Africa and Mexico. She enjoyed photographing flowers and had well over 2,500 labeled slides, with both common and botanical names, that she used as part of her plant presentations while teaching Master Gardener classes and giving presentations to horticultural clubs and other events.

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 United States.

Miss Miller's request was for a short Celebration of her life and not a funeral service.