



## Robert E. Miller Jr.

April 21, 1940 - June 7, 2017

Robert E. (Bob) Miller Jr. passed away on June 7, 2017 at 77 years old after a brave battle with cancer. Born April 21, 1940 in Ashland, OR to Robert E. Miller Sr. and Goldie Miller, Bob grew up as a 4th generation Jackson/Siskiyou County rancher. His great grandparents first settled near Willow Creek mountain outside of Montague in Siskiyou County, and Goldie's father, Louie Miller, homesteaded on the Box O Ranch off Hwy 66 near the California-Oregon border. By 1940 his parents had a small dairy, that later included beef cattle, near Ashland in Jackson County during his school years.

Growing up Bob was known for his rifle marksmanship abilities and placed well in shooting competitions, as well as participating in the Boy Scout program. After graduating from Ashland High School he went on to complete a four-year degree in Animal Husbandry at Oregon State University. He married Vicki Morley in 1962, and after graduating from OSU they ranched with Bob Sr., Goldie and Bob's younger sister Ellin on the Box O Ranch and the family's Camp Creek Ranch near Irongate Lake for several years.

Daughter Tara was born in 1963 when they lived on the Box O Ranch. Bob Sr. was also raising Appaloosa horses at that time, and Bob broke and trained horses and enjoyed competing in local stock horse and penning events, as well as having a real estate license for several years while he was running cattle with his folks.

In 1968 Bob was hired as an OSU County Extension Agent in Burns, OR and the family lived there for four years. He enjoyed the job and the lasting

friendships made in Eastern Oregon, but in 1972 the opportunity to lease Beswick Ranch on the Klamath River just above Copco Lake came about and he decided to move back home and start his own cow/calf operation, raising commercial Simmental cross cattle. The ranch grew to include other private leases around Copco and Irongate lakes where his folks had been ranching, as well as the Soda Mountain BLM permit that had been in the family since his grandparents ran cattle there. Bob met his soul mate, Patricia Ann Cook of Montague, later in life and they were happily married in 1979 in a meadow ceremony at Beswick Ranch. Bob & Pat expanded the operation in 1980 to include a hay ranch near Montague, and their son Brian was born in 1981, but was tragically lost in a car accident when he was 16. After running the hay ranch for some 6 years, Bob & Pat moved back to Beswick Ranch on the river and continued the cattle operation there until 2004 when they moved to Hornbrook, CA to be near his mom Goldie. Bob semi-retired at that time by leasing out the cowherd, but remained active in the cattle management, helping his daughter and son-in-law gather and work their cattle, and dedicated himself to improving the pasture and irrigation system at the Hornbrook property. He truly had a gift for designing and implementing a variety of ranch improvements, including irrigation, construction, fencing, equipment and fabrication-type projects, and he really enjoyed completing projects for practical uses. As a graduate of the Graham School for Cattleman in the mid-1970's he did all the pregnancy checking on their own cowherd, and he was an accomplished horseman that appreciated training and riding good ranch horses.

Bob was a life-long NRA member and avid hunter who always enjoyed deer and elk hunting as well as fishing. He and Pat had time to travel in recent years on various hunting and fishing trips, including a guided caribou hunt in Canada that was a highlight. Bob also cared about the communities he lived in, believed in volunteerism, and dedicated many hours of his time in having a strong voice for supporting private property and grazing rights for our rural areas and the ranching industry. He was a 4-H horse leader; a founding

member and past-president of the Siskiyou County Sportsman's Association; served a term on the Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Board; member of the Hornbrook Grange and water board; and was honored as the 2005 Jackson County Cattleman of the Year as he had been actively involved with that organization for many years and also served as a regional vice-president and committee chair for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

Bob was preceded in death by his father Robert E. Miller, Sr; mother Goldie Miller and son Brian Lee Miller. He is survived by his wife, Pat Miller of Hornbrook, CA; daughter and son-in-law Tara & Chet Porterfield of Macdoel, CA; granddaughters Kady Porterfield, Selah, WA and Kara Porterfield, San Luis Obispo, CA; sister and brother-in-law Ellin & Bill Spearin of Sweet, ID; sister-in-law Kathy Hansen (Vernon) Lodi, CA; brother-in-laws Bill Cook (Linda), Stockton and Bob Cook (Denise), Montague. Nephews Tom Spearin (Amanda), Boise, ID; Garret Hansen (Sarah) & Ryan Hansen (Jessica), Lodi, CA; Tom Cook (Jody), Lodi, CA; and Patrick Cook, Andover, KS. Neices Kimberly Merenda, Stockton. CA; Amy Cook (Ryan Berthold), Hilo, HI; Emily Cook, San Jose, CA; Amanda Cook (Alex Lehman), Washington, DC; plus eleven grand-nephews and neices.

A friends and family visitation will be held from 6-7:00pm on Friday June 16, 2017 at Girdner's Funeral Chapel, 202 S. Oregon St, Yreka, CA. Graveside services will be at 11:00 on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at the Henley-Hornbrook cemetery in Hornbrook, CA; immediately followed by a Celebration of Life gathering at the Montague Community Hall, 200 S 11th Street, Montague, CA. Lunch will be provided, but if you would like please bring a salad or dessert to share.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to United Scholarships, Inc. for the Brian Miller Memorial Scholarship fund, PO Box 1328, Yreka, CA 96097-1328; or to Madrone Hospice, 255 Collier Circle, Yreka, CA 96097, or to a charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Henley-Hornbrook Cemetery

15123 Oregon Road  
Hornbrook, CA 96044

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 16. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Girdner Funeral Chapel  
202 S. Oregon St.  
Yreka, CA 96097  
(530) 842-3434  
<https://www.girdnerfuneralchapel.com>

## Graveside Service

JUN 17. 11:00 AM (PT)

Henley-Hornbrook Cemetery  
15123 Oregon Road  
Hornbrook, CA 96044

## Celebration of Life

JUN 17. 12:00 PM (PT)

Montague Community Hall  
200 S 11th Street  
Montague, CA 96064



# Tribute Wall

JW

“ I will never forget Bob's smile, his dedication to the private lands, agriculture and the cattle industry. I knew Bob thru his work with the Oregon Cattleman's Association. He will be missed.

*John Williams*

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**John Williams** - June 14, 2017 at 10:48 AM

BW

“ Very sorry to learn of Robert's passing.. In about the mid 50's, his dad had the COPCO #2 ranch place leased.. Bobbie and I (Bobbie Wilson) were both Bobbies in those days.. Bobbie was putting front shoes on a saddlehorse just inside the big, old barn that was on the place.. He wasn't wearing chaps (shoeing or otherwise) and just starting to nail on the iron.. That critter pulled his leg forward between Bobbies thighs and one of the nails ripped jeans, and hide.. It didn't cut him too deep, but it was nasty looking just the same.. He went on and got the job done anyway.. That was one of the last times I remember seeing Bobbie.. In later years after I learned to shoe, I would think of that incident & Bobbie every time I was puttin' iron on the front.. I got in the habit of driving nails fast and bending 'em' faster.. That probably happened on a Saturday morning when neither of us were in school... Thank you for a very well written; informative obituary.. My mother, Ellen Wilson, kept me kind of up to speed on Bobbie through the years.. Condolences from the West Slope Colorado Bobbie.. By the way, the hay meadow on that place is 3 or 4 times larger than what can be seen nowadays.. Most of it is under Iron Gate Reservoir..

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**Bobbie Wilson** - June 12, 2017 at 08:08 PM

MA

*I was saddened to hear of Bob's passing. I met him in the 1990s when I started working for Farm Bureau. He certainly had his share of troubles with the regulation of his ranch and his grazing allotments in the Monument. Even so, he always had a smile and a little laugh at his circumstances. He was a genuinely nice human being and I respected his fighting stamina..He will be missed - Marcia Armstrong*

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**Marcia Armstrong** - June 13, 2017 at 01:36 AM



*So sorry to here about Bob passing . I saw him and talked to him about two months ago or so up at Providence Cancer center in Medford Or. Our thought are with Pat and there family..*

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**Dale Payne** - June 13, 2017 at 08:48 PM

SG

*So very sorry to hear of Bob's passiing. My thoughts and prayers to all.*

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**Sherry Glendenning** - June 17, 2017 at 10:19 PM