

IN MEMORIAM



Lloyd L. Miller—A Renaissance Man

Lloyd Miller died peacefully November 11, 2007, and with his passing, dentistry lost not only one of its great talents, but also an articulate, caring, dignified gentleman. He was, perhaps, best described by Malcolm Daggett, a lifetime friend, as “tough yet compassionate,” and as having “a strong work ethic—a generous man, a good man.” Long recognized for sartorial splendor on the surface, his depth of character served as an inspiration for so many.

One may ask how a man’s life and contributions can be evaluated—what is his legacy? There are so many instant, banal answers, but how many can be counted for Lloyd? Devoted husband to Ann, adored and respected parent to his children, recognized artisan in his career endeavor of restorative dentistry, and valued confidant of scores of residents and colleagues; these are but a few highlights of his many wonderful attributes. Availability and humility desert so many “stars,” but here is a shining example of a “mensch.” It was so easy for him to listen and make others believe that they really mattered.

John McLean described him as “a man for all seasons.” He allowed himself to be balanced and was passionately interested in nondental avocations including big game hunting, Western art, skiing, farming, and wine.

He will long be remembered by his profession for both his dedication and his capability. It is unnecessary and I’m sure would be embarrassing to him to once again recount his leadership roles and accumulated awards. I distinctly recall our conversation regarding his selection for the Distinguished Clinician Award at the 9th International Symposium on Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry in June 2007. He was delighted, and hoped to be well enough to be present together with Ann to receive the award in person. No one unaware of his illness in the previous year could have assessed the courage he displayed. Lloyd Miller distinguished this award and set an example for those who will receive it in the future. We all miss the presence of this special role model and would reward him to the fullest by emulating his integrity and enthusiasm for both life and dentistry.

Myron Nevins, DDS
Editor-in-Chief