



Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller

October 18, 1953 - April 3, 2023

Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller, age 69, of Buckhannon, died on Monday, April 3, 2023, at J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown. He was born on October 18, 1953, in Webster Springs, a son of the late Virgil E. Miller and Nadine Virginia Knight. He was united in marriage on December 28, 1991, to Susan K. Carter Miller who survives. In addition to his wife, he is survived by three sons: Shawn Miller of Philippi, Shane Miller and wife Pamela of Belington, and Tyler L. Miller and wife Kodi of Rock Cave; two stepdaughters: Tara Hughes and husband Chris of New Bern, North Carolina and Toni Kiser and husband Scott of New Orleans, LA; nine grandchildren: Madisson, Corey, and Kaiden Miller, all of Buckhannon, Timothy "T.J." Miller of Florida, Beverly Miller of Belington, Miner and Landree Miller of Rock Cave, and Addison and Avery Hughes of North Carolina; one great grandson Jace Stokes; one brother Jack Miller and wife Dreama of Madison, WV; and two sisters: Martha McCourt and Anna Marie Lehman, both of Webster Springs. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers: Jessie Lloyd Miller and Charles Edward Miller; and one sister Stella Lee Riffle.

Virgil attended and was a strong supporter of the Heaston United Methodist Church at Hodgesville. He served in the United States Army as military police and was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany. He was a well-known and respected Sheriff throughout WV, and was an executive board member of the WV Sheriffs' Association. He served on the board of the French Creek Disabled American Veterans Chapter 36 and was a member of the Buckhannon Elks Lodge 1736. Sheriff Miller served West Virginia communities for more than forty years in various roles. He began public service with the Webster County Sheriff's Office in 1977, for three years before coming to Upshur County in 1980, where he served as chief deputy for eight years, during which time he was very active with the WV Deputy Sheriffs' Association. This was followed by his election as Sheriff for two terms (8 years) from 1989-1996. Being term-limited to two consecutive terms, he could not run for a third consecutive term. He continued public service by then serving as Magistrate in Upshur County for five years. He left his magistrate role and returned to law enforcement as chief of the Buckhannon Police Department for three years and was then elected sheriff again for two more terms (8 years) from 2005-2012, after which he was bestowed a Lifetime Membership with the WV Sheriffs' Association for his unwavering service to the

State. He remained with the Sheriff's Office as Chief Deputy for Sheriff Dave Coffman for three years. He then retired, but in January 2019, he went back to his law enforcement calling, working as a deputy sheriff in the Lewis County Sheriff's Office for a year and a half. In 2020, Sheriff Miller ran unopposed and was elected to his 5th term as Sheriff of Upshur County, making him the longest serving active Sheriff in West Virginia. Governor Jim Justice recognized Miller for his longevity in October 2021, with a certificate of recognition for his dedication.

Sheriff Miller will certainly be remembered for his dedication to his calling as a law enforcement officer and as a Sheriff. The citizens of West Virginia were better because of the service and dedication he had to them and his fellow sheriffs, deputies, and officers regardless of the color of uniform. We lost a great man, great sheriff, and great friend. Friends will be received at the Wesley Chapel on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, WV on Friday, April 7, 2023, from 11:00 AM-7:00 PM. Funeral services will be held at Wesley Chapel on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at 10:00 AM, with Pastors Josie Tenney and Bryan Sinclair officiating. Interment will follow in the Hacker Valley Cemetery in Webster County. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the French Creek DAV Chapter 36 at 2191 Alexander Rd., French Creek, WV 26218.

Cemetery Details

Hacker Valley Cemetery

Hacker Valley, WV

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wesley Chapel
59 College Ave
Buckhannon, WV 26201-2600
(304) 473-8000

Funeral Service

APR 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

Wesley Chapel
59 College Ave
Buckhannon, WV 26201-2600
(304) 473-8000

Tribute Wall

AF

“ I served with Virgil in the US Army in Heidelberg Germany 529th Military Police Company.
Although I had not spoken to him in years I was so saddened to learn of his passing. It was an honor to have served with and even a greater honor to have known Virgil. In those days we called him 'Moose'. He was a force to be reckoned with...a man with a heart and soul of gold. Rest in Peace Deuce Niner.

Andy Frisby - October 08, 2023 at 05:16 PM

BM

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. I knew Virgil many years ago when I worked at Upshur County Comcenter. He was a wonderful person to be around. Full of life and loved to have fun on the job when possible.
He was an exceptional law enforcement officer and very astute.
Though I haven't seen him in several years, I still feel the loss. I pray God will give you peace and comfort at this time.
Barbara Hissam McMillen

Barbara McMillen - April 09, 2023 at 06:16 PM

DB

“ Dave And Lori Black lit a candle in memory of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller



Dave and Lori Black - April 08, 2023 at 08:14 PM

WH

“ Susie and family, you and Virgil shared something special.
Love and prayers.
Wayne and Cathy Hinkle

wayne hinkle - April 08, 2023 at 07:14 PM

CS

“ I was so sorry to hear of Virgil's passing. He and my brother Arley Stout were in the same class at the old Webster Springs High School in Webster County, and when Arley passed away, Virgil reminisced about their times together in high school. Virgil was always a smiling, friendly face and he will be deeply missed. Carol Stout



Carol J Stout - April 08, 2023 at 03:57 PM

LL

“ Susie, Marie & Family, we are shocked and saddened to hear of Virgil 's passing. Max went to school with you & Virgil . We've. Talked about Viirgil many times, We always knew that our lives were safer & blessed because he was in it. We have never had to worry that if we needed help, where we would get it, all we needed to do was to ask him for it. He was funny & kind, and he never met a stranger.. I remember once I called Marie to see if she knew where Mom was, Virgil answered the phone, and Marie didn't know where she was, Virgil said "the pie lady", if you don't find her soon, call back, I will put an APB out on her, we can't lose her and those pie's. He was truly one of the last of the 'good guys'. He made Webter County (& Upshur, & Lewis) safe & proud. 🌸
👮♂️. Max & Linda Lowther



Linda Lowther - April 08, 2023 at 12:42 PM

BB

“ Him and my dad who's name was Delbert Lee Boyles were best friends they were really close my dad was so sad when he found out he passed fly high Virgil you will be loved and missed ever so dearly and to his family im soory for your loss

Brooklyn Boyles - April 08, 2023 at 12:30 PM

SH

“ Sharon Hosaflook lit a candle in memory of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller



Sharon Hosaflook - April 08, 2023 at 09:47 AM

SR

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. He was the best Sheriff anyone could ever ask for. He saved my life a couple of times. He kept me safe from one of my ex husband's. He loved everyone. He knew how to talk to people and address them. He took the time to listen to people. God has a very special Sheriff now. May God give the family comfort of knowing that he is no longer in pain. He is watching over everyone.

Sarah Ratcliff - April 08, 2023 at 01:28 AM

LF

“ Virgil was a wonderful person and a great Public servant. Virgil was always Virgil no mater where you seen him .May God Bless his family. Rest in Peace buddy.

Larry Farnsworth

Larry Farnsworth - April 07, 2023 at 09:27 PM

AT

“ Shane and Shawn- I am so very sorry for your loss. I know how hard losing a dad is. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Virgil always was so kind to me and my family.

Amy (Bennett) Thorne - April 07, 2023 at 08:58 PM

C(

“ My deepest condolences to Shane and Shawn. Virgil was such a great man! Fond memories of him playing rook at Donnie & Sharon Bowens house. Always a fun time when your dad was around. I can just hear Donnie saying " Virgil what took you so long? " Rest easy Virgil you surely will be missed!!

Connie Goodwin (Tallman) - April 07, 2023 at 07:46 PM

JS

“ My condolences to the family.

Jill Stout - April 07, 2023 at 07:25 PM

ED

“ Sorry about Virgil,we shall miss him.Terry,Elsie,Bradly Daft

Elsie Daft - April 07, 2023 at 06:38 PM

AR

“ To the Virgil Miller Family -
Our sincere condolences for all of you. Virgil was a fine man, a good friend and
an excellent police officer. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him and the
people of Upshur County.

Sincerely, Alec Ross & Family

Alec Ross - April 07, 2023 at 04:34 PM

BR

“ Bobby & Ruth lit a candle in memory of Sheriff Virgil
Douglas "Skipper" Miller



Bobby & Ruth - April 07, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sheriff Virgil
Douglas "Skipper" Miller.



April 07, 2023 at 02:11 PM

RS

“ Virgil is surly going to missed. Serving on the UHR Board of
Directors together to him with his son in Boy Scouts and
being at the garage. I have a lot of funny memories. God
Bless you Virgil. You all are in my thoughts and prayers



Rhonda Harlow Suder - April 07, 2023 at 12:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of
Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller.



April 07, 2023 at 10:23 AM

DT

“ Sorry for your loss our love and prayers are with you all.



dianne tenney - April 07, 2023 at 10:12 AM

AJ

“ Amby Jenkins sent a virtual gift in memory of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller



Amby Jenkins - April 07, 2023 at 09:29 AM

AJ

Virgil was a delight to work with. Such a huge personality and good friend. He will be greatly missed. Thoughts and prayers to the family and friends.

Amby Jenkins - April 07, 2023 at 09:32 AM

JG

“ Virgil you will be misses by all who knew you. you were of the Great Police Officer's May God Bless look over your Family and give them peace and comfort. John and Joyce Griffith



John & Joyce Griffith - April 06, 2023 at 08:20 PM

TJ

“ Virgil was a blessing to so many and he will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.
Johnie, Mary, and Tina Johnston

Tina Johnston - April 06, 2023 at 06:57 PM

JH

“ John And Bertha Hewitt lit a candle in memory of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller



John and Bertha Hewitt - April 06, 2023 at 04:59 PM

OG

“ *Opal Gillespie lit a candle in memory of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller*



Opal Gillespie - April 06, 2023 at 04:43 PM

AK

“ *My name is Al Kisner and I'm the former Sheriff of Monongalia County.*

Virgil and I attended many training seminars together over several years.

I always loved his sense of humor, and he always made people feel good whenever he was there.

He was a consummate professional and a credit to the law enforcement community.

I will always cherish the memories I have of Virgil and hope God will touch each person in his family with love and comfort in such a difficult time.

Allen Kisner - April 06, 2023 at 04:27 PM

VB

“ *Virginia Booth lit a candle in memory of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller*



Virginia Booth - April 06, 2023 at 04:16 PM

CG

“ *To virgil's family.. he was a good Godly man. He was a caring sweet soul, tractor shows will.not be the same, all.the times we sat at the house looking at tractors. My heart breaks but he is in a better place a place we want to.be. may the love of God get you thru this.time Candy, Mark and Corbin George*

candy George - April 06, 2023 at 02:22 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller.*



April 06, 2023 at 01:14 PM

JH

“ *Jerry And Diana Hefner lit a candle in memory of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller*



Jerry and Diana Hefner - April 06, 2023 at 12:35 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller.*



April 06, 2023 at 09:38 AM

OC

“ *We will surely miss you. May God be with your Family and Friends. You were not only a Sherriff but a great Friend. We will always remember the jokes and laughter that you shared with us. You can rest now. Fly High With The Angels*



Orville and Karen Collins - April 06, 2023 at 08:16 AM

GG

“ *Skip and I have been friends for >50 years and I could not ask for a better friend. A giant of a man with a heart bigger than he was. Our loss is heavens gain. Love and prayers for Susan, his boys and their families and all those that love him* 💔

Gloria Gregory - April 06, 2023 at 06:38 AM

LJ

“ Virgil was a one of a kind fella.. when I met him I was younger and found out my Father, Lin DeBarr was his teacher in Webster County.. My first job was at French Creek School and there was a set of cute blonde boys who turned out to be Virgil's boys..One was in my class and the other one wanted to be there too!! I have so many funny memories of 4-H camp with him there, things that happened through the years that will continue to make me smile when I think of him. I saw him the last time I came to town and now will cherish that. The last time I spoke to him was when I called the Sheriffs office from Texas where I live now, and sang Happy Birthday to him!! What a wonderful person Virgil was.. we will all miss him so much...

Laura DeBarr Johnson - April 05, 2023 at 10:08 PM

BR

Shane and Shawn my heart hurts for you. Your dad was a truly good guy. My thoughts are with you. Butch

Butch Rainey - April 06, 2023 at 11:13 AM

ES

“ I remember as a young man playing little league baseball with Shawn and Shane and Virgil was our coach on the VFW team. He was a great coach always nothing but positivity. He was a great man and great Sheriff to Upshur County and will be greatly missed. My condolences and prayers for his family.

Ed Simmons - April 05, 2023 at 08:36 PM

TC

“ Thelma Carpenter lit a candle in memory of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller



Thelma carpenter - April 05, 2023 at 08:29 PM

TH

“ "Skipper" was a great guy with a fantastic personality & a friend to many who have fond memories of him and the Webster Springs High School years. God bless him and prayers for his family! A donation is being made to French Creek DAV, chapter 36, in his honor. Sincere sympathy, Tamra Tuttle Hemke, Tampa, Florida

Tamra T. Hemke - April 05, 2023 at 06:00 PM

DC

“ I am a Class Mate of Skippers, All through school, Webster County. He was a SUPER Guy. Very NICE and respectful A true servant to the people.. I'm so SORRY to hear this. He will be MISSED by so many My deepest sympathy. Prayers for the Family. Debbie Brown Cool.



Debbie Cool - April 05, 2023 at 05:45 PM

CD

“ Cheryl Debarr lit a candle in memory of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller



Cheryl Debarr - April 05, 2023 at 04:42 PM

KA

“ Dear Susie, Tyler, Tara, Toni and all the others: I was heartbroken to hear "Skip" had passed. Even before he became part of the family I always remember him being out there somewhere keeping the bad guys at bay. But, I'll always remember him as the big guy with the big heart and laugh to go with it. It will be hard, but I know he will be with us in spirit the next time we all sit by the river around a campfire. Skip-its the End of Watch for you. Rest in peace until we join you in Heaven.
Karla Anderson



Karla Jo Anderson - April 05, 2023 at 04:30 PM

CJ

No one could have a better friend. He was the best model of law enforcement I have ever met. He will be a legend in Upshur County for many years to come.
Charlie Jones

charlie Jones - April 06, 2023 at 11:08 AM

Sherry Singleton

“ Virgil was a super guy. Rest in Peace. Prayers for his family, co workers and friends. ❤️🙏

Sherry Singleton - April 05, 2023 at 04:11 PM

CK

“ Clay County Sheriff's Dept, Allen King purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller.



Clay County Sheriff's Dept, Allen King - April 05, 2023 at 03:34 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller.



April 05, 2023 at 02:30 PM

SM

“ RIP: Virgil you have been a great friend to all who new you
Thank you for you service and now you gain your wings and crown 🌹🙏❤️



Suzie Mullenax - April 05, 2023 at 02:16 PM

DB

“ Dennis Burner lit a candle in memory of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller



Dennis Burner - April 05, 2023 at 12:55 PM

RP

“ Roger G Poling lit a candle in memory of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller



roger g poling - April 05, 2023 at 12:45 PM

RP

Virgil, I will miss you and We offer our deepest condolences to the Miller family. Roger and Patty Poling

roger g poling - April 05, 2023 at 12:48 PM

DC

“ *DAV Chapter 36 French Creek lit a candle in memory of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller*



DAV Chapter 36 French Creek - April 05, 2023 at 12:19 PM

DC

DAV Chapter 36 French Creek extends heartfelt prayers and sympathy to Virgil's family. We have lost a great supporter of DAV, wonderful community advocate and, most of all, a true friend and patriot. He will live on in our hearts and memories.

DAV Chapter 36 French Creek - April 05, 2023 at 12:23 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller.*



April 05, 2023 at 12:04 PM

SO

“ *I have many fond memories of Virgil from our high school days. My prayers for Susie and his entire family. May the Lord give you comfort and peace in the days, weeks and months ahead.*

Susan Cressler Okun - April 05, 2023 at 11:58 AM

TT

“ *So sorry for your loss. I known Virgil back in 80's when him and connie asked me and my sister to babysit for them their two boys Shawn and Shane. He would always either come and get us girls in his crusier or take us back home. Made me feel funny like we were a criminal. But you couldnt ask for anyone better. Every time he seen me out he would talk to me and ask how I was doing. Shawn and Shane my Love and prayers are with you .*



Teresa Tenney - April 05, 2023 at 11:29 AM

ML

“ I was part of the group of newly elected Magistrates in 1997. At annual conferences, Virgil was the tallest man in the room, with a kind heart, excellent work ethic & grand sense of humor. I missed visiting with him annually once he went back to his law enforcement career. Praying for peace & comfort for your family.

Missy Pride Linger - April 05, 2023 at 10:39 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller.



April 05, 2023 at 09:51 AM

JJ

“ So sorry for your loss. I knew Skip from the time he was born. Everyone that met him would remember him. Great person.



Jerry and Carol Jordan - April 05, 2023 at 08:35 AM

CH

“ Very sorry for your loss. He was a good man. I've known him his whole life, he was a good friend to my brother, Jerry Winkler.

Carol Hall - April 05, 2023 at 07:48 AM

JK

“ So sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers for the family.

Janet Kershner-Vanover - April 05, 2023 at 07:36 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller.



April 05, 2023 at 05:24 AM

RB

“ My wife and I still can't believe Virgil's gone. He was a wonderful person and friend, and well respected in the community. Virgil always worked hard to protect the people of Upshur County. He always had their best interest at heart. He will be greatly missed.

Our prayers and condolences go out to Virgil's family. It's never easy losing a loved one. Please know you are not alone in saying goodbye to Virgil. There's peace in knowing Virgil is in the company of God now. He will live on in the hearts of all who knew and respected him.

Randy & Rhonda Brooks - April 05, 2023 at 04:56 AM

CW

“ Susan and family, I was shocked to learn of Virgil's death. He always had a big smile and a great personality. He surely was an asset to our community and we will miss him. When I was reporter, I often talked with him several times a week. He was a friend to all of us.

Carol Jean Walton - April 05, 2023 at 12:40 AM

NL

“ I am so sorry to hear of Virgil's death. He was a good man and served with integrity and honesty. He genuinely cared for people and represented what a law enforcement officer should be. He will be truly missed.

Nancy Lockwood - April 04, 2023 at 11:10 PM

KC

“ Kimberly Collins lit a candle in memory of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller



Kimberly Collins - April 04, 2023 at 10:49 PM

CC

“ I'm so very sorry .. Prayers for all his Family & Friends . RIP rest in paradise Skip ..GOD Bless you all ... Cindi Garrison Cogar Bolair Webster Co ..



Cindi Garrison Cogar - April 04, 2023 at 10:36 PM

CW

“ Our deepest condolences to the Miller Family. God Bless and comfort you in the days to come. His dedicated service to our county will always be remembered. We have lost a great friend. Carl & Sue Williams, Buckhannon, WV.

Carl & Sue Williams - April 04, 2023 at 10:04 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Sheriff Virgil Douglas "Skipper" Miller.



April 04, 2023 at 09:41 PM

LM

“ When I heard of Virgil's passing this morning all I could say was WOW, I have a lot of memories of serving as a fellow Law enforcement officer with Virgil, his accomplishments and service will live in the hearts of Upshur County residences forever, to his family, may God love you and give you peace and understanding, God Bless Larry&Kathy Marsh



Larry&Kathy Marsh - April 04, 2023 at 09:35 PM

BE

“ Skipper was such an amazing gentle giant. Loved by all his friends and classmates. Your big hugs, smile and genuine friendship will always be remembered. Thoughts and prayers for Susie and his children. Brenda Comuzie Elam

Brenda Elam - April 04, 2023 at 09:13 PM

NC

“ So many precious Memories of our school days. Love an prayers to the family Don & Nettie Carpenter 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Nettie Carpenter - April 04, 2023 at 08:49 PM

CP

“ Our prayers and thoughts are with the Miller family. Our community has forever been touched with such a wonderful and caring sheriff. We are indeed left with a void but also know that Virgil has left a legacy that will always be with our county.

Clay and Karen Persinger - April 04, 2023 at 08:12 PM

TS

“ I am so sorry to hear about Virgil's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Tammy Johnston Selman - April 04, 2023 at 07:55 PM

SP

“ Thoughts and Prayers for the family and the law enforcement family in the days to come. He was a great man, and will be dearly missed by all.

Shauna (Myers) Patrick - April 04, 2023 at 07:38 PM

DB

“ To Virgil's immediate family and all of his Law Enforcement family, May God give you all peace and comfort during this difficult time. Hugs and prayers to all of you!

Darrell and Patty Bennett - April 04, 2023 at 07:10 PM

GM

“ Miller Family:
Sorry to hear about the loss of a wonderful and hard working man.
Georgia McCauley and Family



Georgia McCauley - April 04, 2023 at 07:10 PM

BE

Dear Miller family I'm sorry for your loss he was a good man and work hard for what he did

Beth - April 04, 2023 at 07:39 PM

CD

To the Miller family, so sorry for your loss.He was a great man and will be missed.
Carol Dunn

Carol Dunn - April 04, 2023 at 07:54 PM

SF

“ Shawn, Shane
You both are in mine and Tim's thoughts and prayers.
Never forget we love you both and always thought so much of your dad. I always knew if I ever needed anything, all I had to do was give him a call and I had help.
You boys have been a blast to watch grow into the men you are. Love you both.



Sandy Fultz - April 04, 2023 at 07:01 PM

ES

“ *Shane, Shawn and family. You are all in our thoughts and prayers at this time. May god be with with you all in this sad time.*



Eric and Jeannie Shaw-Ridenour - April 04, 2023 at 06:47 PM

MB

“ *I am so sorry to the Miller family for losing a legacy of a man. His smile and presence filled a room.*

Megan Bacorn - April 04, 2023 at 06:32 PM