



Walter O. (Tollie) Miller, Jr.

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Salient facts about his life:

He was one of the first babies born in the old Kings Daughter's Hospital in Greenville.

He started the first grade in Belzoni and graduated from high school in Minter City.

He lied about his age so he could enlist in the Navy, to help in WWII. He was a gunner on a Navy cruiser and a signalman. He also served in the Korean Conflict.

After graduating from high school, he earned a Bachelor's degree from Delta State, and a Master's degree from Mississippi State in entomology. After initial work assignments for Dow Chemical in Florida and Michigan, the Miller family settled for good in Leland in 1955. Before his work responsibilities expanded far beyond the Delta, Tollie taught children's Sunday School with Dr. Elmo Cox for years at the United Methodist Church.

Tollie was probably best known in his community as a hunting and fishing enthusiast. His lifelong habit of encouraging and mentoring younger sportsmen endeared him to many. Tollie Miller is big part of many, many memories at the old Ponderosa Hunting Club and on Montgomery Island. He was "feared by game and fish" in seven states!

He had an outstanding long-term career as a research entomologist with Dow Chemical, working with Delta, regional, West Coast, and even international farmers for almost 40 years.

He also participated in local league tennis, both as partner with his wife and as an individual. Many, many friends were made on the tennis courts, and with the MSU tennis stars as they visited the Delta.

Many adults in our community remember--from when they were children-- the part Tollie played with his wife Angie and sons, each Christmas Eve, as children around town received phone calls from the North Pole. With sleigh bells ringing in the background, sounds of toys being loaded, and the voices of the three young elves following orders, many smiles and hopes were fanned aflame those fateful nights.

Tollie's humor and playful spirit were always welcome around town, and during their many social cookouts, Tollie cooked up some of the best quail, venison, and frog legs in the area.

Tollie was a devoted brother to his sister Ann, remaining close throughout his lifetime. His praise for his sister was incessant and their love was a joy and beauty to behold.

Cheerful, warm, and joking to the end, he lived a life that touched and blessed many, many people. His sharing, mentoring, and playful heart touched and enriched many of us here today.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF HIS LIFE AND FOR
HONORING HIM WITH US TODAY