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Dan Miller

BEST
Father • Husband • Friend



Iowa Chinese Community Remembers DAN MILLER



Swallow Yan (left), Executive Director of the Chinese Association of Iowa, presented the certificate of the lifetime membership to Dan's family.
January 2005 • Drake University



Dan Miller was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award in Media Leadership.
Hong Lei (left), Consul General, the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Chicago presented the award to Diane.
September, 2017 • State Capitol

The Iowa Chinese community is saddened to hear about the passing of Dan Miller. Dan was a prominent community leader and mentor, and he was a good friend to many in the Chinese community. He and his family had a strong relationship with the Chinese community in Iowa after he adopted Maya from China's Hubei Province.

Dan's family became lifetime members of the Chinese Association of Iowa and were active participants in the Chinese New Year Celebrations, Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, and the CelebrAsian Asian Heritage Festival.

Dan was also a strong supporter of the Iowa Youth Leadership International and Presidential Youth Leadership Initiative student programs, which brought hundreds of Chinese students to learn more about Iowa and the United States. He hosted many students to talk about IPTV, the news medium, and how Iowa participates in many national events, including the Iowa Caucuses.

Dan hosted many international visitors, ranging from teachers to government officials to business executives, who are now friends of Iowa. With his humble attitude and visionary thinking, Dan believed in Iowa's leadership role in international affairs due to strong ties with China, agriculture, and education, and he played a role in forming great relationships between the people of Iowa and the people of China.

Dan was also a great mentor to the Chinese community, particularly those who were first generation immigrants and were new to life in Iowa. Dan spent much time and effort to mentor, host and lead these individuals to share Iowa's kindness with them and help them adjust to life in their new country. Dan's presence and leadership helped take these Chinese immigrants to new stages of becoming new Americans – and new Iowans.

At the Chinese Association of Iowa's 2008 Chinese New Year Celebration, IPTV was named winner of the 2007 Media Leadership Award for its distinguished role in providing Iowans great resources in culture, education, business and the community. Dan Miller accepted the award in name of IPTV.

On September 30, 2017, the Chinese Association of Iowa celebrated its 30th anniversary in the State of Iowa Capitol Rotunda. Chinese Counsel General Hong Lei from Chicago came to present Community Leadership Awards, and he presented Dan Miller the Lifetime Achievement Award in Media. Dan was unable to attend due to his physical condition, so Dan's wife Diane Graham accepted the award on her husband's behalf. Counsel General Lei was honored to meet Diane and congratulated her for Dan's lifetime achievement.

The Iowa Chinese community has lost a great friend, supporter, and leader. We do not feel anyone can replace him for his friendship, passion, and sincerity. Dan Miller is a milestone and true icon of Iowa, and has helped shape our state into a great place to live for all. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Dan Miller and his family. We will never forget him, as he will always live in our hearts.



Photo credit to Des Moines Register

Daniel Kevin Miller

Des Moines - Daniel Kevin Miller died February 25, ending a six-year fight against a rare progressive neurological disease called Multiple System Atrophy. He was 66.

Dan was perhaps best known as the face and voice of Iowa Public Television. During his 37 years there, he advanced from producer of weekly news shows to documentary producer to executive director, winning numerous awards for delivering high-quality journalism.

Dan was the loving father of Maya Miller, 18, and the devoted husband of Diane Graham, whom he married in 1986.

He was born March 19, 1951, in Des Moines, the third and youngest child of Martin and Maureen Polking Miller. As a teen, he caddied at Waveland Golf Course, an experience that fostered a lifelong hatred of golf. Dan graduated in 1969 from Dowling High School, where he had his moment of theater fame, singing On the Street Where You Live in My Fair Lady. He also landed a part-time job running cameras for KDPS-TV, an early public station at the Des Moines Schools. That post would plant the seed for what became his life-long passion for public television.

When his father died unexpectedly in 1968 while working for the State of Iowa to set up a trade mission to Canada, Dan, just 16, arranged to bring his father's body home from Canada. Dan's father was a newsman in an earlier career and

his mother was a writer, so the "news" was often discussed at dinner. Anyone listening would have heard clearly his parents' commitment to high standards, such as keeping one's promises, not only in a profession but in all aspects of life. Dan took these examples as a guide on his own path. His word was his bond.



After high school, Dan attended Iowa State University briefly. With a job promise from the staff of U.S. Senator Harold Hughes (D-Iowa), he stuffed his belongings in a small convertible borrowed from his brother, headed east, broke down near Gary, Ind., threw the boxes on a bus, and went on to Washington. While working for Hughes and attending George Washington University, Dan gained new, invaluable skills and formed lifelong friendships. One of those friends, Bonnie Campbell, a Hughes staffer and later, Iowa Attorney General, recalled, "We were all mentored by remarkable people, and Dan took it to heart. He learned (staff management skills) right at the outset as a young man."

Friend Mark Hamilton, also a Hughes staffer, remembers that on Fridays after work, they might unwind with an in-office happy hour. Enough drinks and dares, he added, and they'd wedge themselves into the Dirksen Senate Office Building corkscrew-shaped mail chute and slide all the way to the basement mail room - more than once, of course.

After Dan earned a bachelor's degree from GW in 1974, he returned to Iowa as press secretary for Iowa Congressman John Culver's successful campaign to succeed Hughes in the U.S. Senate. Rather than return to Washington, Dan joined what was then called the Iowa Public Broadcasting Network as a producer for public affairs programming.

One of his earliest accomplishments was leading the development and production of a new weekly agribusiness news program Farm Digest (now called Market to Market and available nationwide to public television stations). He also produced Iowa Press, a weekly public-affairs program on national and local issues affecting Iowa. In those early years, Dan wrote and produced several documentaries, including See How They Run, which examined the Iowa Caucuses' role in



winnowing U.S. presidential candidates. Among its several honors, this film was a finalist in the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University awards. Later, he also oversaw the nationally televised presidential candidate debates. Among his proudest professional moments was producing the live national pool coverage for Pope John Paul II's historic visit to Iowa in 1979. In 1984, he was promoted to program director, and in 2002, became general manager and executive director, a position he held until his health prompted his retirement in 2013.

Dan maintained IPTV as an independent voice in Iowa journalism, even while it officially remained a state agency. He stressed editorial integrity and journalistic independence among the staff and created IPTV's first editorial integrity board. He was scrupulously even-handed, earning the respect of state Democrats and Republicans alike. David Yepsen, a friend and former Des Moines Register reporter, once said Dan saw IPTV as a cultural force that could help knit the state together by serving all Iowans through its programs. Underlying the successes of his career and his commitment to public television was this fact: Dan truly loved Iowa.

Dan may have seemed at ease in front of the television camera, but he actually did not seek the spotlight. Still, he was frequently recognized for his extraordinary contributions to

public television, earning numerous regional and national broadcast-journalism awards. He was the 1981 recipient of the Jack Shelley Award, the Iowa Broadcast News Association's highest honor. He earned the respect of his public television colleagues nationally, too, serving on various boards and committees for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Public Broadcasting Service, WGBH-TV, the BBC, and other public television organizations.

In August 2016, PBS president and CEO Paula Kerger presented Dan with the inaugural Daniel K. Miller PBS Station Leadership Award. The annual award celebrates excellence in leadership at local stations and acknowledges those members of the public television system who strengthen and ensure the future of public media.

Dan and Diane, a reporter and later managing editor of the Des Moines Register, met in 1982 and married in October 1986. As a humorous salute to his work with Market to Market, the IPTV staff presented them with a huge concrete pig as a wedding gift. (Dan and Diane were just grateful it wasn't live!) It still graces the backyard of the family's home.

Dan loved fishing, whether he caught anything or not. He drove a series of distinctive cars, including a purple Gremlin with a broken passenger door and a pumpkin-colored (not orange) Toyota. Among his trademarks were his humor, wit and creative - but not always printable - use of the English language. Dan may have seemed brash at times on the outside but had a big heart for people who were hurting. Then there was his smile that could own a room. He also delighted nephews and nieces by magically finding quarters hidden behind their ears. He was an inveterate snacker with a special love of chocolate chip cookies, sometimes with a beer chaser. Jameson, preferably finely aged, was his choice for special occasions.

A beautiful new life chapter began in 2000 when Dan and Diane decided to adopt a child from China and brought daughter Maya into their lives. Dan loved being a father and often took Maya to his office, which was populated with toys,

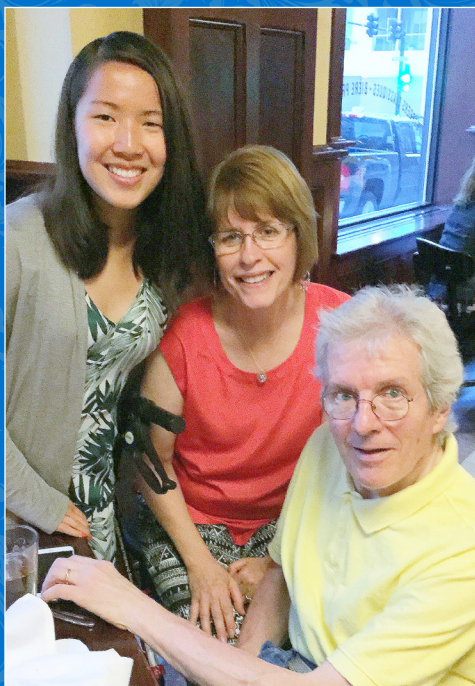


Photo courtesy of Diane Graham



Photo courtesy of Chinese Association of Iowa

books and videos about PBS Kids programs (no Disney TV for this kid). The family cherished its chance to return to China in 2010 for a heritage tour, and Dan also became deeply involved in the Chinese American community in Iowa. Just recently the Chinese Association of Iowa honored him with a Lifetime Achievement in Media Leadership.

When the symptoms of Dan's disease began to multiply, the first official diagnosis in 2012 was early-onset Parkinson's disease. But as his condition declined rapidly, he and his family searched for other answers. Ultimately, Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) was pinpointed. Sometimes called "Parkinson's on speed," MSA has no treatment or cure, and it progresses much faster than Parkinson's. Over the past few years, MSA took Dan's mobility and speech, but never his spirit, his humor, or his mind. Dan has looked for ways to help raise awareness for MSA, and in that spirit decided to donate his brain for MSA research at the Mayo Clinic-Rochester.

The family wishes to thank the aides of HCI Extra Care, who helped Diane and Maya keep Dan at home for several years; Elizabeth Jordt, friend and helper extraordinaire; Melinda Ritter-Brown and Ellen Hansing at Younker Rehabilitation, who helped keep Dan on his feet when others wouldn't, and Bill Roach, his personal trainer, storyteller and friend. The family also thanks his personal doctor, Scott Honsey, and the staff of the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center, where Dan had lived since October 2016. They also appreciate the many friends who visited Dan, sent him cards and gifts, provided meals, and offered shoulders to lean on.

In addition to Diane and Maya, Dan is survived by his brother, Martin Miller of Santa Cruz, N.M.; his uncle, Dean Polking of Fort Dodge; four nieces, four nephews and one grandniece. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Susan Gennari.

The family suggests memorial donations to the Multiple System Atrophy Coalition or the Daniel K. Miller Endowment at the IPTV Foundation. A celebration of life with a reception to follow will be April 7 at 11 a.m. at The Tea Room, 713 Walnut St., Des Moines.

Source: Des Moines Register



Photo courtesy of Chinese Association of Iowa

Daniel K. Miller

Former IPTV Executive Director
& General Manager

1951-2018

**37 Years of Service at
Iowa Public Television**



Celebration of Life Service

11 a.m., 6th floor, The Tea Room
Wilkins Building
713 Walnut St., Des Moines

Reception immediately following
at The Tea Room
Noon to 2:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to:

The Multiple System Atrophy Coalition

9935-D Rea Rd., #212
Charlotte, NC 28277
www.multiplesystematrophy.org

The Daniel K. Miller Endowment

of the IPTV Foundation
6459 Corporate Dr.
Johnston, IA 50131
www.iptv.org/friends



Photo courtesy of Chinese Association of Iowa

悼念爱荷华州媒体领袖丹尼尔·米勒： 因为热爱，所以执着

2018年2月25日，爱荷华州新闻界的一位巨星陨落，享年66岁。他就是爱荷华州公共电视台的著名制片人丹尼尔·米勒，从20多岁时涉足媒体行业。在他四十几年的媒体从业生涯中，他用自己超凡的新闻敏感和媒体领导力，确立了其在爱荷华乃至美国媒体业的卓著地位。

远离家乡赴华盛顿学习

1951年，丹尼尔（以下简称“丹”）出生于爱荷华州首府德美茵市，是家里最年轻的孩子。他的父亲最初是一名新闻人，母亲是一名作家。茶余饭后，家里总是会不经意讨论起最近的新闻。

由此，在他年少时期就埋下了新闻理想的种子。学生时期，丹开始在学校公共电视台做

摄像兼职工作。这样的经历为他日后全心投身于媒体行业打下了坚实基础。

高中毕业之后，丹在爱荷华州立大学只停留了短暂的一段时间，随即奔赴华盛顿，为美国参议员哈罗德·休斯工作。与此同时，在乔治华盛顿大学进修学习。

丹一直十分感激自己所拥有的这段华盛顿经历。在这里，他收获的不仅仅是新技能，更多的是长久的友谊。

丹的好朋友之一，现任爱荷华司法部部长的邦尼·坎贝尔这样评价丹：“我们都曾经受教于很多厉害的人物，丹总是可以把自己学到的东西认真放在心上。作为一个年轻人，他在那个时候开始有意培养自己的管理能力。”

丹在1974年获得乔治华盛顿大学的学士学位后，重返自己心爱的故乡——爱荷华州德美茵，开启属于自己的新闻之旅。

讲述爱荷华人的故事

1975年，丹开始在爱荷华州公共电视台工作(Iowa Public Television-IPTV)，为多个电视节目担任执行制片人。在丹负责的节目里，核心主题都在讲述与爱荷华州息息相关的故事，同样也是爱荷华人爱看的故事。

农业是爱荷华州的大产业。丹与其团队制作了一档关于农业贸易的周播节目《农场自销(Farm Digest)》。现在这档节目已经改名为《市场对市场(Market to Market)》，在全美的公共电视台里都可以转播收看。

在早期的IPTV时光里，丹还致力于制作各种纪录片，其中包括探究爱荷华州政党会议在美国总统选举的作用等。这一切，奠定了丹在IPTV的制片人地位。1984年，丹转型为节目导演，并且在2002年担任爱荷华公共电视台的总负责人和执行导演。

在节目制作中，丹有自己的想法与态度。他总是希望IPTV能够在爱荷华新闻业里保持一种独立的声音，即使它仍受制于爱荷华州机关部门。他倡导员工保留社论完整性与新闻独立性。由于对新闻事件的公正态度，丹赢得了民主党与共和党的一致好评。

丹希望通过自己的努力，能够让更多的爱荷华人看到优质的新闻，以爱荷华为自豪，因为他深深地爱着这片土地，为爱荷华公共电视台倾尽了所有。

一个华人孩子的父亲

丹的妻子黛安·格拉哈姆，曾是《德美茵纪事报》的记者与编辑，她与丹相识于1982年，这对新闻伉俪在1986年结婚。

2000年，丹和黛安做了一个幸福的决定：领养一个来自中国的女孩，并且取名玛雅·米勒。

丹非常喜欢自己的父亲身份，常常带着女儿来自己的办公室。办公室里到处都有儿童玩具、书本和动画碟片。

2010年，米勒夫妇带着女儿远赴中国进行了一次“寻根之旅”，这次的旅行，让他们全家都得以亲身体验中国，了解中国文化。

作为爱荷华州华人协会的终身会员，丹积极参与华人协会的各项活动，并且致力于中美之间的各项合作。

2017年9月30日，爱荷华州华人协会三十周年庆典在州议会大厦隆重举行，中国驻芝加哥总领馆总领事洪磊先生把“媒体终生成就奖”颁发给了丹，感谢他为公众新闻及中美关系所做出的巨大贡献。丹的夫人黛安前往带他领奖。这也是来自爱荷华州华人社区对丹及全家的致敬。

不放弃与病魔六年斗争

2013年，丹因身体健康原因，不得不辞去心爱的媒体工作。早在2012年，丹身上已经开始大面积出现疾病征兆，那时的诊断是早发性帕金森病，而随着病情恶化，他的家人开始为他检查其他病因。

最终，丹被确诊为罕见多系统萎缩症(Multiple System Atrophy)，也就是俗称的“加速帕金森病”。这一顽症无法获得病因也没有有效治疗方法，而身体萎缩速度却远远快于正常的帕金森病。

据黛安回忆，即使病魔已大面积侵入并损坏丹的身体，他仍旧没有抱怨，不放弃与病魔作顽强的斗争，一直保持乐观的心态。

“丹的头脑是非常清楚的，只不过身体无法配合”黛安说，“在大部分的时间里，他成功地让自己能够正常生活，直到最后一刻。”

记得丹曾经说过：“只要自己心中有坚决斗争疾病的信念，即使无法根治这个疾病，也能拖延其扩散的速度。”

他还在与病魔抗争期间，做出一个重大决定：将自己的大脑捐献给爱荷华梅奥诊所，帮助多系统萎缩症的医学研究，为更多患者带来治愈的希望——这也是丹想要为自己深爱的爱荷华州和民众所做的最后一点贡献。

为纪念丹尼尔·米勒先生的卓著贡献，他的家人朋友将举办纪念追思会。时间：4月7日（周六）上午11点，地址：The Tea Room, 713 Walnut St., Des Moines

欢迎米勒先生和家人的同事、朋友以及华人朋友前来参加追思纪念，为他的家人送去安慰和悼念，让天堂中的丹永得平安。