

## **Milt Milton's obituary**

USAFR Colonel (Ret.) Milton “Milt” J. P. Miller passed away on July 19, 2023 at the age of 74 in Scottsdale, AZ from complications associated with MDS.

Milt epitomized the American spirit and dream. He loved his God, family, and country. He was an inspiration to everyone he met. Milt grew up on a horse farm in Ohio and earned a congressional nomination to the Air Force Academy, where he graduated in 1973. While at the United States Air Force Academy, Cadet Miller participated in the inaugural of President Richard Nixon, was one of the commanders of the Basic Cadet detail, and was he Second Group Commander for the 1972-1973 academic year. In that capacity, he commanded 1000 of his fellow cadets, ultimately graduating 3rd in a class of 841. Upon graduating, he attended UCLA on a co-op program to receive his MBA before attending pilot training.

Upon graduating pilot training at the 64th Flying Training Wing at Reese AFB – flying T-37s and T-38s, where he was presented the Leadership Award, as the officer whose personality, conduct, and bearing had the greatest effect on the graduating class, he was selected to fly the A-7D and was assigned to the 354th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB, Tucson, AZ. After this assignment, he received orders to the 74th Tactical Fighter Squadron, England AFB, Alexandria, LA, continuing to fly the A- 7D Corsair as part of the Flying Tigers, then to the 355th Tactical Training Squadron back at Davis Monthan.

With his love of flying cemented, then Capt. Miller moved over to the Tucson Air National Guard as an Instructor Pilot and Fighter Weapons Instructor at the 195th Tactical Training Squadron, 162nd Tactical Fighter Group. As Group Fighter Weapons Instructor Pilot, then Capt. and Maj. Miller revolutionized how pilots fly and navigate safely at low altitudes with his training program and video – “How Low Can You Go?” for which he was awarded a 1984 Laurel from Aviation Week and Space Technology. He isolated turning and looking as the cause of nearly half low-level flying accidents in the world. Widely regarded as the foremost subject matter expert on low-level flying, from 1983-1984, he briefed over 1000 aircrews and over 50 General Officers. Every pilot in the United States Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps went through his training program to ensure that when flying 50 ft above the ground at 500 knots they were able to return safely – his program saved untold pilots lives.

In the mid-80s, the 162nd transitioned to flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon, and Maj. Miller served as the chief of the Group’s training section and developed the first ever F-16 Air Defense syllabus directed to convert F-106 squadrons. In 1987, then Maj. Miller joined the 302nd Fighter Squadron (ACC), 944th Fighter Wing (ACC) at

Luke AFB in Phoenix, AZ, where he participated in two Gunsmoke Worldwide Gunnery Competitions in 1989 and 1991. In the 1989 competition, the 944th won first place. In the 1991 competition, then Maj. Miller was Flight Commander where the team placed second overall. The 944th Gunsmoke '91 Team was awarded the Best Aircraft Appearance, Top Crew Chief, Top F-16 Maintenance Team, F-16 Top Gun, and the Best High-Altitude Dive Bomb. During this assignment, he also updated and implemented Air Intercept Training software for all F-16 avionics modification and upgrade programs.

Throughout his career, Col. Miller was always on the cutting edge of training and simulation for the warfighter. As a simulator visionary, he collaborated with all aspects of the acquisition and research process to become the foremost technical expert in the Air Force regarding low cost, high fidelity aircrew simulators. In the 1990s, he was the driving force to bring a squadron level high fidelity flight simulator to every F-16 unit worldwide. He was the AFRES MTT Technical Director at the USAF Aircrew Training and Research Division of Armstrong Laboratory, where he worked on the F-16C Multi-Task Trainer (MTT) that became the standard in training pilots. At

Armstrong Research Lab and at another assignment attached to the Directorate of Aerospace Operations and Requirements Office, he spearheaded watershed change in acquisition strategy and technical management for unit-level simulators. He expanded the program to include C-130E upgrades, reconstituted the A-10 Unit Training Device (UTD), and F-15 simulators. His efforts to integrate software and hardware saved countless pilot lives by maintaining mission current, real-time simulators while simultaneously saving the Air Force millions of dollars in acquisition costs under Distributed Mission Training (DMT) paradigm immediately before the Global War on Terror kicked off.

In 2009, Milt retired after almost 36 years of service. Amongst his awards, Meritorious Service Medal, (2 devices) Air Force Commendation Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Combat Readiness Medal (3 devices). As the embodiment of the "Citizen Warrior," he flew for Southwest Airlines where he became a Captain and started two simulation companies – first, International Simulation and Training Systems (ISTS) and Trident Military Systems (TMS). Milt focused on creating American jobs and continuing his service to his country and the warfighter by building and designing simulators – such as the T-38 for NASA, A-10, and F-16 Multi-Task Trainers.

Milt's love of country was matched by his love of family. He met Kathleen, his wife of forty-six years, at the age of eight in Hinckley, Ohio. His happiest moments were spent with his family. He was a wonderful husband to Kathy, a cherished father

to Spence and father-in-law to Maureen, and incredible grandfather to his beautiful granddaughters, Annie & Lucy. His laughter was infectious and his family is grateful for many happy memories and proud of his legacy to carry forward. He will be greatly missed.