

Wendell E. Miller, 86, of Franklin, formerly of West Palm Beach, Fla., went to be with the Lord on Friday, July 20, 2007.

Born in Wilmington, Del., he was the son of the late Wendell Miller and Bertha Shewbrooks Miller. He was preceded in death by his cherished wife of 64 years, Dolores Miller, who died in 2005; a grandson, Michael Dillon, who died in 1984; a son-in-law, Ken Uchida, who died in 1985; and a daughter, Diane Dillon, who died in 1986.

Wendell was a member of Iotla Baptist Church of Franklin and served along with his wife as director of the Joy Club. He was also a member of the Berean Bible Sunday School Class. Prior to moving to Franklin in 1994, he was a long time member of First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, serving as deacon and Sunday school teacher. He also enjoyed the mid-week fellowship and Bible study at First United Methodist Church of Franklin.

Wendell was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of WWII, serving his country at Pearl Harbor and Guam, from 1942 until 1946. He retired as captain from the West Palm Beach Police Department after 20 years of service. In his retirement, he owned and operated a Christian bookstore in West Palm Beach for nine years, as well as performing as a professional magician. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians as well as the Fraternal Order of Police. After 73 years as a resident of West Palm Beach, he made his home in Franklin, a place he referred to as "God's country."

Wendell was an artist who enjoyed writing, collecting and photography. He was an avid reader and student of the Bible. He had a creative spirit and a passion for knowledge. He is survived by two children, Derek Miller of Lake Worth, Fla., and Wendy Uchida Sokoloskis and husband Benny of Franklin; son-in-law, Kevin Dillon and wife Katrine of Lake Placid, Fla.; five grandchildren, Jeffrey Dillon and wife Paula, Danny Miller and wife Kristen, Sandy Christopher and husband Joe, Christy Uchida Clark and husband Scott, and Scotti Uchida; seven great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law, BJ Gilmore and husband Richard; and best friend and "partner in crime," Larry Schrock of Franklin.

A funeral service will be held Tuesday, July 24, at 2 p.m., in the Chapel of Macon Funeral Home, with Rev. Steve Reeves officiating.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, from 1 to 2 p.m., at Macon Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Iotla Baptist Church or Friends of the Library.

Macon Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences are available by visiting www.maconfuneralhome.com.

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