



# James Michael Milligan Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is given in memory of my husband, James Michael Milligan who passed away on May 27, 2016. Mick, as he was known to his family and friends, was a humble man and a person who truly enjoyed helping others. He would eschew the spotlight of being recognized for his life accomplishments but he would appreciate the gesture of helping others succeed in life.

Mick was born in the small town of Moultrie, Georgia, located in the Deep South. He was one of six children born to Wilkes and Inez Milligan. His father and grandfather designed and built many homes in Georgia and Florida.

Mick learned carpentry skills working for his family and he used those skills throughout his life in constructing various projects such as a “tree” house for his son and furniture pieces for the family. Today his grandson is sleeping in a cradle he made.

When Mick and I married, he was a submariner in the U.S. Navy. He completed two years of college before joining the navy but was unsure of what he wanted to do while in college. His experiences in the nuclear submarine service guided him towards a field in engineering. He graduated from Western New England College as an Electrical Engineer and worked for ISO New England until he retired. His education and life experiences gave him the opportunity to find a career that was challenging, stimulating and worthwhile.

Woodworking was probably Mick’s favorite hobby but he had many interests. He was an avid reader all his life, he grew bonsai trees, collected coins, enjoyed card games, travel, sports, especially golf, gardening and more. A significant amount of his time was given to helping others. He could repair anything; including plumbing work, electrical jobs or whatever a family member or friend needed to be done. He designed a solar system to heat our pool, created a self watering system for home planters and rebuilt a sports car. He learned how to crochet so he could teach me the steps I needed to complete a project. (It was challenging to teach me how to crochet as I am right handed and he was left handed).

We never hired people to paint our house or do wallpapering or any other chore as he was able to complete any task and, do it well. He was the “Mr. Fix-it” for our family and friends. As you can tell, he liked to keep busy.

If you asked others to describe Mick I am sure the first qualities they would cite were his thoughtfulness and kindness. His son, Sean, and I would agree. He was a loving father and husband and always put his family first. We miss him every day. Recently, his son Sean and Sean’s wife Lindsay had a baby. Michael James (named for his grandfather) would be Mick’s first grandchild.

I hope the recipient of this scholarship finds the success and happiness in life that Mick certainly enjoyed. Education is one of the keys to reaching one’s potential and my hope is that this scholarship supports your journey in achieving a fulfilling life. Please follow Mick’s example of remembering others along the way. Embrace the curiosities life has to offer and challenge yourself to meet your goals.

Written by: Kathryn Milligan May 4, 2017