



WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORICAL NOTES

NOVEMBER 2010

WILLIAM G. MILLER, JR OBITUARY

by Mary Ulm

Wilton Manors Historical Society

William G. Miller, Jr., passed away on November 11, 2010. Bill Miller was one of the seminal figures in the history of Wilton Manors. He was 85 at the time of his death and is survived by his law partner, Alicia Zachman, former wife Patricia Breslin Miller, and children Bonny Miller Cole, W. Gerry Miller, III, Sharon P. Miller, and Thomas A. Miller, as well as grand children and great grand children.

Two years after passing the Florida Bar, and after serving in WW II, Miller was hired by the Village of Wilton Manors to be its attorney in 1952. One of his first challenges was to prepare a Charter to make Wilton Manors a City. The state legislature concurred in June 1953.

There were a lot of challenges to being “a city.” Miller guided the new Wilton Manors through the intricacies of securing the first bond issue for sewers, imposing the first ad valorem real estate taxes in 1957, and preparing numerous ordinances and land annexation documents. As the population increased from 1,500 in 1952 to 12,000 in 1982, Miller created the legal infrastructure to support the city’s growth.

Miller and his wife Patricia built a house on the South Fork of the Middle River where Bill had loved to camp as a Boy Scout. The house would accommodate an 18 foot, real Christmas tree, for years a big hit with their children, friends and the community.

The list of politicians in the first 30 years of Wilton Manor’s history is long and distinguished. As City Attorney, Miller was the one who made it all work.

Miller was Broward County’s first Eagle Scout, with L. Clayton Nance, at age 13. He went on to be an active member, officer, or supporter of numerous philanthropic, social, and professional organizations until his death.

The Wilton Manors Historical Society and the City of Wilton Manors honored Mr. Miller in January 2010 for his contributions to the City.

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