

MILLER—Brig. General Ray S., 1544 Edgumbe rd., May 31st. Husband of Eva, brother of Grace Miller, Van Wert, Ohio, Mrs. Forest Shoemaker, Delaware, Ohio. Services at the Willwetscheid Mortuary, Grand and Dunlap, Saturday 1:30 p. m. Interment Acacia Park. Visitation after 4 p. m. Friday. Floral tributes being arranged for by the family.

Rites to Be Held Saturday for Gen. Ray S. Miller

Services for Brig. Gen. Ray S. Miller, 70, 1544 Edgumbe road, St. Paul, who died Wednesday, will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Willwetscheid mortuary, with burial in Acacia Park cemetery.

Gen. Miller has been credited with creating the idea of having an air national guard.

Born in Van Wert, Ohio, he began flying before World War I, flew during the war and moved to the Twin Cities to sell airplanes after the armistice. It was at that time he approached Minnesota's adjutant general with the idea of starting an air branch of the state national guard.

They went to Washington and got congressional approval to set up squadrons in seven states. These included Minnesota's 109th squadron.

In World War II, Miller was promoted to colonel and in 1950 was made a brigadier general as commanding officer of the Minnesota air national guard. He retired in 1951 while in the post of special assistant to the chief of the air defense command of the air force.

Survivors include his wife, Eva; two sisters, Mrs. Forest Shoemaker, Delaware, Ohio, and Grace Miller, Van Wert.

GEN. RAY S. MILLER

Air Guard Founder Honored

An old soldier received his proper due Thursday, the highest military honor of Minnesota's National Guard.

Gen. Ray S. Miller, 1544 Edgumbe road, stood straight and tall as Gov. Andersen pinned the Distinguished Service medal on the blue air force tunic of the man who 40 years ago founded the Minnesota Air National Guard.

The moment capped the career of the 70-year-old general who in the pioneer days

of aviation fought for and won federal recognition for his volunteer 109th Aero squadron which he'd fashioned from flying officers, mechanics and ground personnel of World war I.

In 1921 the 109th became the first air guard unit in the United States.

Wednesday's luncheon not only honored Gen. Miller but

also observed the air national guard's 40th birthday.

Brig. Gen. Chester J. Moeglein, newly-appointed adjutant general of Minnesota, made his first appearance as a one-star officer.

Principal speaker was Maj. Gen. Orvil Anderson, executive director, Air Force Historical foundation, Maxwell air force base, Alabama.



GOV. ANDERSEN CONGRATULATES GEN. RAY S. MILLER

FACTORY RANCE uminum LE-TRACK SELF-STORING WINDOWS

- NO DOWN PAYMENT
- FIRST PAYMENT—APRIL
- INSTALLATION EXTRA
- MINIMUM ORDER—6 WINDOWS
- ANY SIZE UP TO A GIANT 34x66
- MAIL ORDERS ACCEPTED
- HOME DEMONSTRATION

SASH CO.
Ave.

TA 7-3861

Phone Service

STATE UNITS ALERTED FOR MARCH 1 CALL

Minnesota's Air National Guard was alerted today for active duty.

A telegram from Thomas R. Finletter, Air Force secretary in Washington, to Gov. Youngdahl, said the state's air units will be activated March 1. Upwards of 1,000 men will be affected.

The Air Force order covers the 133d fighter wing headquarters, the 133d fighter group headquarters, the 133d supporting units, including air base, medical maintenance and supply; the 109th fighter squadron, single engine, and the 109th weather station A. All of these organizations are based at Holman airport.

Two other organizations based at the Duluth airport are the 179th fighter squadron single engine, and the 179th weather station A, also to be activated March 1.

Brig. Gen. Ray S. Miller, commanding officer of the state Air National Guard, said that details as to quarters and mess for the men when they are activated will be clarified later. The order, however, directs that individual and organizational supply and equipment will accompany the Air Guard units.

All of the pilots in the squadrons are veteran fliers of World War II, Gen. Miller said, and all have a minimum of 125 hours of flying per year.

A third component of the 133d fighter group is the 178th fighter squadron based at Fargo.



once over

Lightly

—by Paul Light—

REQUIEM FOR A GENERAL

They carried the general to his grave Saturday . . . High atop Pilot's Knob, overlooking the vast green valleys of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, his old friends and comrades in arms gathered to say goodbye to their commanding officer.

Overhead a squadron of jets screamed past in final, awesome salute to the aviator whose element was the air long before the jet pilots were even born.

This was familiar ground to the general. He'd cut the throttle many a time over Pilot's Knob in aerial respect to those aviators of his time who'd gone before him.

And now the general's time had come to join the silent ranks of fliers buried there on that green knoll.

An honor guard raised rifles. At command they fired a volley over the general. It shattered the still air of the cemetery and echoed, reechoed off the distant banks of the rivers.

A fierce proud spirit, a pioneer in man's conquest of the air, the father of our nation's volunteer air defense forces, General Ray S. Miller, was laid to rest . . .



THE GENERAL IS STILL A TOP FLIER—Brig. Gen. Ray S. Miller, father of the Air National Guard and commander of the 133rd fighter wing. The 109th air squadron, founded by him, will go into active service Thursday. For details on the career of a distinguished St. Paulite TURN TO PAGE 3.—Sunday Pioneer Press Colorphoto by Ralph M. Welch.



AIRMAN NAMED GENERAL—State Adjutant General J. H. Nelson, right, pins on a star making Ray S. Miller of St. Paul a brigadier general in ceremonies at the State Capitol. Gen. Miller will head the National Guard's air station.—Staff Photo.

Col. Miller Promoted To Brigadier General

Col. Ray S. Miller, 58, of St. Paul was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the Minnesota National Guard Monday and immediately was named chief of staff of the guard's air section.

He will supervise all activities

of the Minnesota Air National Guard, now numbering more than 1,000 men.

Gen. Miller, who has been in service for 32 years, organized the first National Guard air squadron—the 109th Aero squadron. He served as a pilot in World War I and was a colonel in the last war.

After the war, Miller resumed service with the state guard. He was colonel on the staff of the adjutant general prior to his new appointment.

Throughout his career, he has retained his rating as a pilot. Today he is rated a command pilot and regularly flies the guard's F-51 Mustang fighter plane.

He will continue his real estate, insurance and investment business in the Pioneer bldg. Gen. Miller lives at 195 N. Lexington pkwy.

Gen. Miller Buried With Military Rites

Brig. Gen. Ray S. Miller, a founder of the air national guard, was buried Saturday on top of a hill overlooking Wold-Chamberlain airport, a field on which he had landed countless times during his long aviation career.

Gen. Miller, lifelong resident of St. Paul, died of cancer, Wednesday after a long illness. He was 70. His home was at 1544 Edgumbe rd.

About 400 mourners, including uniformed army national guardsmen and members of the air national guard, were present as the casket was lowered with full military honors in Acacia Park cemetery, Mendota.

F89 air national guard jet planes from Duluth flew over the cemetery as the casket was taken from the hearse, and an 11-gun salute was fired from the 105-cannon.

One hundred uniformed army national guard troops and 60 air guardsmen stood

at attention during the services.

Active pallbearers were six master sergeants, some of whom had served with Miller in his early days in military service.

The Rev. Erwin Koch, pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed church and a friend of the flier, and Capt. Gary Piehemery, air national guard chaplain, officiated at services in the Willwer-scheid mortuary.

A pioneer in military aviation, Miller was a member of the air branch of the army signal corps. This later grew into the army air corps and later the air force. In 1920 he played a leading roll in establishment of the air arm in the national guard and his 109th aero squadron became the foundation for the Minnesota air national guard.

Surviving re his wife, Eva, and two sisters, Mrs. Forest Shoemaker of Delaware, Ohio, and Miss Grace Miller of Van Wert, Ohio, the general's birthplace.



General Ray S. Miller
Founder of the Air National Guard and
first commander of the 109th Aero Squadron,
Minnesota Air National Guard



Former Commanders of the 109th Squadron:

Brigadier General Ray S. Miller

Colonel Ernest R. Berg

Lieutenant Colonel Francis T. J. Carlson, deceased

Colonel John R. Dolny

Major William K. Teare

Major Kenneth H. Dahlberg

Colonel Edmund M. Antonini

Captain Karl Waldron, Jr.

Major Byron E. Wilson

Colonel Charles L. Praul

Lieutenant Colonel Marvin A. Thorson,
present commander

3 P-P * 3 * 129/51

BRIG. GEN. RAY S. MILLER and Mrs. Miller (Eva Hope) 195 Lexington parkway, have purchased the home recently built by the late Helen Bunn on Edgumbe road. At present they are doing some decorating and are planning to occupy it in about two months. Miss Bunn died before the house was completed so it has not been occupied as yet.



Mrs. Miller

* * *

THE TUDOR OF LONDON