



Lionel H. Milliken

June 24, 1931 - August 8, 2013

Lionel H. Milliken, 82, of Syracuse, New York died Thursday, August 8, 2013 at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse, New York following a long illness. The son of the late Stanley "Rip" Milliken and Laureen Hicks, he was born June 24, 1931 in Picton, Ontario. Mr. Milliken retired from Raymour & Flanigan. He was a lover of life and a humanitarian of the highest order. Lionel was predeceased by his twin boys, Kevin & Kyle, his parents and sisters Anne Vitanza and Nancie Kirk. He is survived by his beloved wife and partner of 33 years the former, Carol Miljan; seven children, Michael, Mitchell, Marty and Brett Milliken, all of Syracuse, New York, Michelle (Michael) Streeter of Waxhaw, North Carolina, Thomas and Charles (Rebecca) O'Connor of Concord, California; 11 grandchildren, Jonna, Ryan, Danielle, Tyler, Liz, Brandon, Karlee, Katie, Alexander, Marin and Marly. A celebration of Lionel's life will be held from noon to 5 pm on Sunday, August 25th pond side at 218 Longmeadow Drive, Syracuse, New York 13205.

Tribute Wall



“ It was many years ago when this strange man from a foreign land walked into our Seneca Mall showroom looking for work. We (the sales staff) figured that no way this guy wearing blue jeans and a weird beard would get hired. We were wrong! What could he have told Neil Goldberg and Bob McKenzie that got him on the team so fast? We may never know. Well, me being John Lewis, took to an immediate dislike to this guy. Even his name did not fit in with our John, Chuck, Bob, Ray, Jerry, Tony, Neil, Jack, Norm, Mickey, Sandy, Joan, Ursula, Barb, Carol, Jeri, Eileen and the rest of us normal red-blooded Americans. Though, we did have that guy \“Moel\”. But this new guy named after a train; are you kidding me? Over time, this guy proved to be as good a salesman as he said he was. Even more reason for the top salesman of the company, like me and my best friend Chuck Black, to find a way to sabatauge this guy. Then there came the day of the clip-on-tie incident. It was a normal weekday, with our regular sales staff of ten except he was there on his day off as an extra un-needed salesman. Most of us were not happy with it, but it I that decided to have words with this guy. The conversation did not go well, and it became physical. I grabbed him by the neck tie. It was a good move and I had the advantage. He knew this, and decided to go for the same move on me. As he proceeded to thrust out his arm and grasp my neck tie, with great speed and force, he felt no resistance as my clip-on style neck tie went flying across the showroom. There was a sudden calm with an eerie silence, before we looked at each other and broke out in laughter. And for those of us that ever were priviledged to hear his laugh, knows it was unique, just like he was. From that moment on we became the best of friends. He was a great host and a very good cook. Many of us would enjoy little get togethers at his rented garage turned into an apartment on the river. Linda Delvey was brand new to the company and attended one of these, and quickly found out what a strange group of mis-fits we were. As time passed, he and Carol became a well matched team, bringing out the best in each other. That was especially true when they discovered a new craze diet of carrot juice. All seem well at first then they actually started to turn an unusual shade of orange. He

liked to grow things like plants and vegetables. From my twenty two years at Raymour-Flanigan, I cherish the memories of the Goldberg family along with so many of the good people that I worked with over the years. Lionel Milliken is one of those at the top of my list. You will be missed my friend, but never forgotten. Love and friendship is eternal John Lewis

September 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Carol and family, I am so sorry to hear of Lionel's passing. My heart goes out to you in your time of grief...I always enjoyed working with Lionel at Seneca Mall and at the N. Syracuse Raymour & Flanigan. I learned a lot from Lionel, not only about furniture sales but his recipes, gardening and enjoying the delicious food he prepared. I still make his wonderful Macaroni & Cheese recipe. He was the best!

August 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Carol, I was so sorry to hear about the passing of Lionel. I can't imagine how difficult this time must be for you. I hope it's comforting to know that many people are thinking of you. Although many years have passed I will always remember Lionel's generosity and kindness. Lionel will be missed by many who had the good fortune of knowing him.

August 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Carol I am so sorry for your loss. I knew Lionel from work at Seneca mall, great times there. I,m lucky to still be working with you. Thinking of you.

August 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Lionel Milliken was indeed a \"lover of life\" and he lived it BIG and with great joy. His garden is big (and beautiful), his Koi are big, his smile big, dinners big (and beyond delicious) and...oh yes, his opinions were big :-) But biggest of all was his heart. Lionel had a heart as big as Broadway.....Lionel gave our two daughters a grandfather (and Gramma Carol a grandmother). He invited us into his family completely and with unconditional love. We were the constant recipients of his generosity of heart and his culinary wonders. Lionel's life was a thousand love stories and it was a gift to bear witness to and be a part of them. We will always love him and hold him close. Love, Maria, Mary Ellen, Marin and Marly
****WE want to thank all of the members of the Milliken family for sharing Lionel with us. We appreciate that more than words can say.

August 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ To Lionel's Family: My wife, Jean and I were associates of Lionel over 50 years ago. We had many great years working together and also going on trips together. Lionel was always lots of fun and had many capabilities he used very well. We're sorry we did not spend more time together over the years that have gone by so quickly. Lionel will be truly missed and again we extend our deepest sympathies to his family, which has really grown, and we know he must have been very proud of them all.

August 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Carol i am sorry to hear about LIONEL. I always enjoyed working with him, he had Alot of good stories, and he sure will be missed.I would not of stayed as long as i Did at Raymours if you,Lionel and Chuck were,nt there.TAKE CARE. Bill

August 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Brett, Ryan, Tyler and Alex, We were so sorry to hear about the loss of your dad/grandpa. Please know that you are all held close in thought and prayer at this sad time. May your memories bring you comfort and peace. God Bless.

August 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Carol I am so sorry for the loss of your spouse Lionel. I remember working with the both of you at Raymour and Flanigan. He was a wonderful person, and will be greatly missed. My condolences to you and your family.

August 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Lionel was truly one of a kind. A great host, funny, wise, and always made you feel welcomed. He will be truly missed.

August 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM