



Dr. John Allen Miner

March 15, 1950 - September 7, 2024

John was a family man, psychiatrist, writer of plays, singer of silly campfire songs, lover of game night (because he always won), creator of adventures, voyager on the sea, and so much more. He lived by his motto: “leave every place better than you found it.” He will be remembered for the playful way he lived his life and loved his family. He was incredibly kind, smart, creative, and thoughtful – he will be missed by so many.

John was born in Watertown, South Dakota to Jim and Vera Miner, the youngest of 5 siblings. He was a standout athlete as a Watertown Arrow, an All-State football player, and also regularly appeared in the high school musicals. He was accepted into medical school after 3 years of college and completed 2 years of medical school at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion before transferring to the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

It was in Minneapolis where John met his life partner, Marci Kaufman. In just months they were married and moved to Rapid City, South Dakota where John worked as an emergency room physician for 5 years. It was in Rapid City that John & Marci welcomed their first two sons, Shane and Noel. John had always been intrigued by the complexity of the mind and finally decided to make a major change and pursue the field of psychiatry.

John entered the psychiatric residency at Yale University, where he eventually

earned 'top resident' honors. After completing his residency, John began a psychotherapy fellowship at Austen Riggs Center in the Berkshires of Massachusetts and the family moved to their home in West Stockbridge, where they welcomed their third son, Evan.

John had an impressive career in psychiatry and psychotherapy. He had various roles at Austen Riggs, started a large private practice, acted as the Director of Mental Health at Williams College, and enjoyed teaching psychiatric residents at Berkshire Medical Center. Through his work, he made a lasting impact on so many people both professionally and personally.

John had many interests. He loved music and was an avid singer with his church, the Berkshire Bach Society, Festival Chorus, and the acapella group The Quintessentials. Later in life, he rediscovered a passion for sailing that allowed him to explore many places – from the New England and Baja coasts to the Caribbean and Mediterranean seas. He cherished the memories that were created on the water and the friendships that they led to.

John will be remembered most for his deep commitment to his community and his family. While his sons were growing up, John spent many hours coaching youth baseball and basketball. When his sons expressed interest in soccer, he learned that too and started a youth 3 on 3 soccer tournament to support the Monument Mountain High School soccer programs, which will celebrate its 25th year this fall.

John's memory will live on through the many special traditions that he passed on to his children and grandchildren, like campfire sing-alongs, and annual Christmas plays. He wrote the scripts, designed the costumes, built the sets, scored the music, and assigned roles to everyone who spent the holidays with the Miners. These were always recorded for future enjoyment and embarrassment.

In the end, John finished his life with the same dignity, honesty, and openness with which he lived. He accepted a difficult cancer diagnosis and decided to focus on sharing his love and appreciation for his family and friends. He was never angry or self-pitying, instead he couldn't stop telling everyone how grateful he was for his life and for them. He was sad to not be able to see what comes next for all of us, but he was overwhelmed with thankfulness for his life.

John is survived by his loving wife, Marci Miner; son, Shane Miner (Becky) and their children Kendra and Kade; son, Noel Miner (Shelby) and their children Nora and Theo; son, Evan Miner (Alex); extended children, Ian Wold (Robin) and their children Stella and Aggie and Leif Wold (Danielle) and their daughter Voa; siblings, Jim Miner, Lois Hart, Jane Miner (Bev) and Judy Miner (Dave); in-laws, Toby Kaufman (Elaine), Monte Kaufman (Janice), Penny Hauffe (Conard), Mary Purdue; along with many nieces and nephews around the country.

John was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters-in-law Celia and Peggy, two brothers, Kenn and Pierce, and granddaughter, Hazel Miner.

We will gather on Saturday October 5th at 1pm at the Stockbridge Congregational Church to celebrate John's life. In lieu of flowers, go explore the world, support your local hardware store, and leave every place better than you found it.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT 5. 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church U.C.C.

4 Main St

Stockbridge, MA 01262

(413) 298-3137

Tribute Wall

TF

“ *The Ramsay Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dr. John Allen Miner.*



The Ramsay Family - October 01, 2024 at 10:27 AM

TG

“ *Tammi G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John Allen Miner.*

Tammi G. - September 29, 2024 at 03:51 PM

JA

“ *Jamie A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John Allen Miner.*

Jamie A. - September 26, 2024 at 10:17 AM

TJ

“ *Tynnetta Jackson lit a candle in memory of Dr. John Allen Miner*



Tynnetta Jackson - September 23, 2024 at 09:47 AM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Dr. John Allen Miner.*



September 20, 2024 at 10:51 AM



“ *Gary and Judy Stanitis and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John Allen Miner.*

Gary and Judy Stanitis and Family - September 20, 2024 at 10:51 AM



“ *Tim Oviatt & Sue Domonoske purchased the A Full Life for the family of Dr. John Allen Miner.*



Tim Oviatt & Sue Domonoske - September 19, 2024 at 09:21 PM



“ *Tim Oviatt & Sue Domonoske planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John Allen Miner.*

Tim Oviatt & Sue Domonoske - September 19, 2024 at 09:21 PM

AK

“ *Andres K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John Allen Miner.*

Andres K. - September 18, 2024 at 03:01 PM

SF

“ *John Miner was an extraordinary human being, gentle, kind, brilliant, compassionate, nurturing and creative. His merry, transcendent spirit helped heal and inspire so many people, including me. John Miner was able to help others heal because he truly believed that healing and growth were possible. I offer my condolences to his family. His life was a celebration of life. He will be missed by so many whose lives he enriched, and sometimes saved.*
Sally Filkins

Sally Filkins - September 18, 2024 at 11:07 AM

CK

“ *I worked closely with Dr. Miner at Austen Riggs Center. I respected his honesty and care for his patients and colleagues. I missed him when he left Riggs and miss him even more now. I send warm thoughts to his family and all that miss him too.*
Cornelia Kalischer

Cornelia Kalischer - September 17, 2024 at 09:35 PM

DH

“ *I wish to express my deepest condolences and prayers to Dr. Miner's family and friends. I worked with him at the Austen Riggs Center. I will say he really did leave that place better than he found it. Sincerely, Dianne Heckman*



dianne heckman - September 16, 2024 at 07:28 PM

EH

“ I will remember the many times I spent with him during our high school years He was a great friend and a blessing to many Eileen Mc Grann Husserl

Eileen McGrann Husserl - September 15, 2024 at 07:34 PM



“ I worked with Dr. Miner at Austen Riggs and he was truly a warm, fun loving man and a great therapist for the patients he worked with at Austen Riggs and eventually for me when my Mom passed away. Dr. Miner pulled me through the grief and I am forever grateful to him.
Sincere condolences are extended to his family and friends. He WILL be missed.
Sami (Mesler) Strout

Sami Strout - September 15, 2024 at 04:28 PM

SA

“ Sami lit a candle in memory of Dr. John Allen Miner



Sami - September 15, 2024 at 04:15 PM

LB

“ As a father, psychiatrist and community member, Thank you! The world is a better place for your being here. Please fly free and rest in peace.

Laura Brown - September 14, 2024 at 06:54 PM

JA

“ As husband, father, grandfather, and psychiatrist John embraced positivity and optimism while honoring the disappointing moments in life. He had faith in humanity and was a leader in finding the light in moments of darkness. Jonathan Aronoff

Jonathan Aronoff - September 14, 2024 at 06:33 PM

JA

“ Jonathan Aronoff purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Dr. John Allen Miner.



Jonathan Aronoff - September 14, 2024 at 06:03 PM

JA

“ Jonathan Aronoff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John Allen Miner.

Jonathan Aronoff - September 14, 2024 at 06:03 PM

JC

“ John was a psyche resident for me at the West Haven, CT Medical Center and it was there I was introduced to his keen intellect, warmth and calm manner. We remained friends and we came to know Marci and all the boys. He embraced life and it embraced him right back. Always a calming presence to family and friends whether circumstances were joyful or difficult and painful. Our deepest condolences to Marci and the entire family.
Sid Phillips and Jack Ciccolo

Jack Ciccolo - September 14, 2024 at 04:31 PM

MF

“ *Megan, Alexis and Brooks Finnegan purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dr. John Allen Miner.*



Megan, Alexis and Brooks Finnegan - September 13, 2024 at
06:21 PM