

Platinum Love Story

Congratulations Dan & Donna

70 years of marriage, memories and a lifetime of love

Daniel G. “Major Dan” Miller and Donna M. Miller (née Mandella) are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married on December 10, 1955, at the Chapel of Roses in Pasadena, CA, following a romance that began in an unlikely place: a southern California dry cleaner where Donna worked. Although another young man was courting her, Dan’s wit and charm - and his loyalty to family - won her heart. Their first date was to Disneyland (in its opening year) and within three months they were wed starting a lifetime of entertainment and adventure.

In 1958, they moved to Billings, where Dan launched his broadcasting career at KOOK Radio. Known to generations of listeners as “Major Dan”, he became a fixture on the Montana airwaves, his nickname born from a Sputnik-era radio promotion that never faded. Over the years he held roles from announcer to general manager, even pilot of KOOK’s hot air balloon. During the U.S. Bicentennial Dan became the first in Montana to broadcast from the air. At 93, he continues hosting “Miller’s Gold” on Mojo 92.5, spinning golden oldies with the same easy wit that first won Donna over.

Donna, a dedicated volunteer and community builder, contributed her time and energy to organizations such as the YWCA, St. Vincent’s Pink Ladies, Bright and Beautiful Billings, and the Yellowstone Valley Farmers Market. She touched many generations during her years at Billings Senior High School before transitioning to a successful career in radio advertising. Donna often joins Dan on-air for special broadcasts, including Sweetheart’s Day, and has participated in countless parades over the years—most memorably at Christmas, donning her famous handmade Christmas tree costume!

Together, they raised three children – Daniel (Lien), Darrin (Kim), and Holly (Bruce) – and built a legacy that now includes grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They traveled widely including destinations in Europe, Asia, Mexico, Canada, and across the U.S., but most frequently visited Yellowstone National Park, their favorite retreat.

