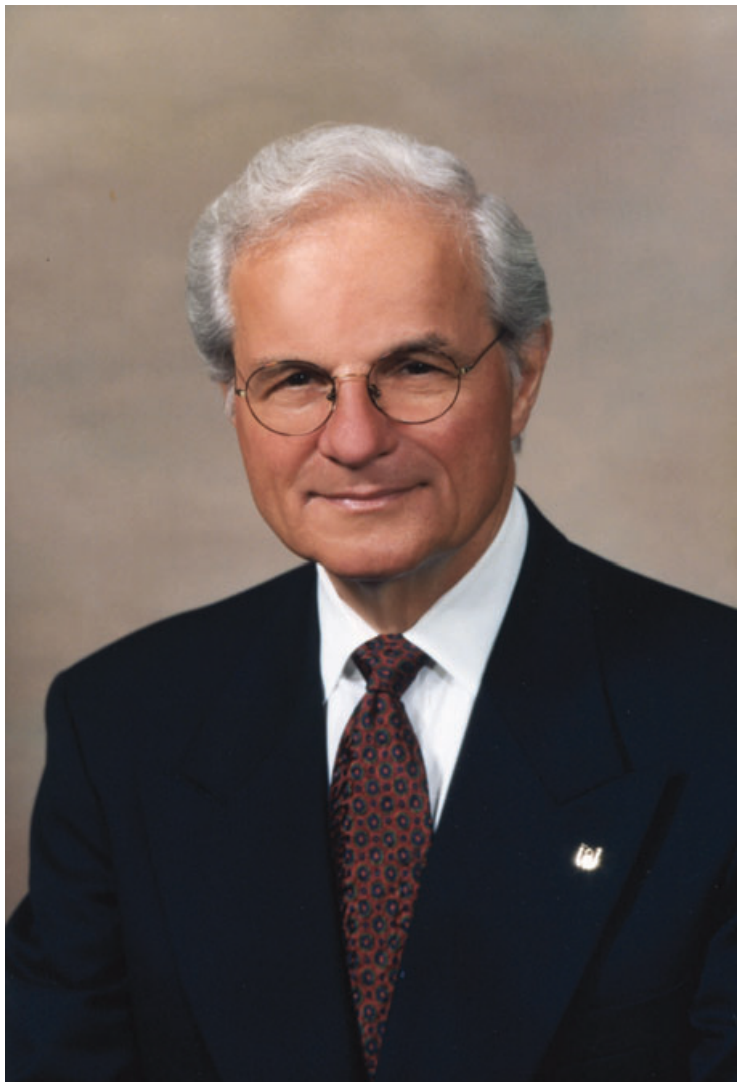


Perspectives

Almost a year ago, dentistry lost a giant of a man, Dr. Lloyd Miller. Few knew Dr. Miller better than Dr. Stuart L. Isler, former Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Esthetic and Restorative Dentistry*. The following memorial essay was written by Dr. Isler.

Harald O. Heymann, DDS, MEd, Editor-in-Chief

Remembering Our Beloved Lloyd



We all remember how he stood in front of us. He would wear a white suit, white shirt, white cowboy hat, and contrast the look with an orange pocket square. The total effect sent a message of a man in love with living.

His message, like a well-written book, was always organized, thoughtful, and informative. We believed in his words and images. We adored him. Sadly, we lost him.

What a special person we lost. Lloyd Miller had a life force that was riveting. He bounded into a room with ebullience and good will and would give you his complete attention. He had a twinkle in his eye and a devilish smirk on his lips. He had a natural ability to encourage feedback in conversation and make you feel good about yourself.

We were the beneficiary of his years of dedication to the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry that he adored and to the

profession he loved with all his heart. We knew that Lloyd was a good and decent man, who gave us justice and courtesy and human concord, and things we never even knew we wanted.

Lloyd Miller lived long enough to live his goals, goals worth living for, his life soft all around him, and time after time, he showed the immense powers of his own clinical skill, imagination, and ideas—ideas to develop, to tinker with and build and sustain.

Lloyd Miller's name became synonymous with ethical behavior. *The real issue of ethics, he said, is courage. How to behave. Whether to flee or fly or seek an accommodation with yourself. Courage is not fearlessness, but how to act in spite of the fear.*

Ethics, he believed, are not an intellectual imperative, or even a professional standard; they are an abstract notion that take meaning in concrete situations. *Ethics, he said over the years, are about obligations, about relationships between people, not between some impersonal idea or principle. An idea, when violated, cannot make reprisals. A principle cannot refuse to shake my hand. Only people can do that. Be consistent, he said. Elastic rules are a poor man's tools.*

You always have choices, he would say. It's your responsibility to make the ethical ones . . . always. That's when you test your strength of character and your courage.

Lloyd mused how the ethical narrative found traction within the broader dental profession.

The ethical hard liners, he said, might prefer demagoguery. But there is no public outcry for change in the behavior of dentists. So we need to be relevant within ourselves for change.

We need to abandon the cul-de-sac of public pronouncements, and instead revive a social realism, to take up as a subject, the colossal, astonishing, and pageant of contemporary dentistry.

Lloyd had so many awards and positions of authority presented to him by a grateful dental profession. He was a true role model, who in his last scribbled note gave thanks that he was able to inspire others. He touched us directly and perpetuated promises of the future. He was someone who received accolades and committed to do even better.

In his last words he said, *Make sure you tell everyone I'm at peace.*

Right now, Lloyd is not gone. We miss him dearly, but he's not gone. He's living inside his book that we're reading. But as time goes on and that book sits on a library shelf and has not been read for a long, long time, all he can do is wait for somebody to pick it up and start reading it again. He will not have changed; his eyes will still be ageless, not those of a child, not an adult—just a bright, ongoing everness.

He will still walk tall and shoot straight and wear white clothes with a splash of orange. His life will still be one thing, like a blade tracing loops on ice; he will still be the poor kid from Maine with the devilish smile, who became a charismatic leader, polite and humble.

Lloyd Miller's legacy is the soul of the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry; his legacy is in your heart. You hold his book in your hands—dog-eared, coffee-stained with a spine as soft as an old baseball glove.

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