



Robert Howard Miller Jr

November 5, 1963 - April 24, 2026

Ferndale, WA — Robert “Rob” Howard Miller Jr., 62, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 24, 2026. He left this world surrounded by loved ones in a room overflowing with stories, tears, and laughter.

Rob was born to Robert and Rosie Miller on November 5, 1963. Growing up in Long Beach, California, alongside his siblings Ronald and Raquel “Rocky,” Rob was almost always on wheels. From his earliest trikes and bikes to the skateboards and motorcycles of later years, he found his greatest joy in the rush of the ride.

At the age of 21, a motocross accident resulted in a life-altering spinal cord injury. Though doctors predicted a life expectancy of only five to ten years, Rob met that prognosis with the same determination he brought to the racetrack. He chose to live life to its absolute fullest—simply navigating the world on a different set of wheels.

Rob’s resilience was matched by his intellect and heart. He enrolled in college, built a thriving community of friends, and established a successful career as a web developer. It was during his time working in Southern California that he met the love of his life, Kelli Burgler. They were married in September 2001, and Rob soon relocated to Ferndale.

Rob was known as a man of loyalty and kindness. He was a devoted husband to Kelli, a proud and supportive father to Alexandria, and a steadfast son, brother, and friend. Rob was always up for cheering on local athletics, enjoying live music, or simply sharing a fist bump and a chat with a neighbor.

Rob never lost his passion for speed and sport. He and Kelli spent years traveling the West Coast to attend races and competitions, fueled by his lifelong love for motocross and car racing.

Beyond his interests, Rob was defined by his selfless nature. In a final, profound act of kindness, Rob served as an organ donor, providing a life-saving legacy for recipients in the Seattle area. His family feels thankful his legacy will continue on through this gift to others.

Rob was preceded in death by his beloved mother, Rosie. His memory will be forever cherished by his wife, Kelli Burgler Miller, and his daughter, Alexandria (Jack) Howell. He is also survived by his father, Robert Miller, his siblings Rocky (Tom) Vernola and Ron Miller, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

The family extends their deepest gratitude to the staff at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center for the exceptional care shown to Rob in his final days.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at 11:30 am at Whatcom Community College | Syre Auditorium (237 W. Kellogg Rd. Bellingham, WA).

The family looks forward to greeting you with a fist bump in Rob's honor. In

lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to The Hospice House, or registering yourself as an organ donor.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ Rob, you were inspiring to any who knew you. Working with you and John back in the our Rockwell DBM days was a pure pleasure. Your sense of humor was contagious and your sunny, positive attitude was always on display. You were brave to volunteer to drive our bunch out to lunch, being the distracting types that we were.

Here's a first bump for ya, buddy. We're sad at your passing, but blessed to have you in our lives.

John Hines (Padre).

John Hines - May 11 at 07:55 PM

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John Hines - May 10 at 06:19 PM

CP

“ *What a blessing it is to have known Rob! I admired his knowledge and loved his wit! The eternal optimist, he saw the best in everyone and everything. He had a great sense of humor. He cracked me, and himself, up frequently. I'll miss all those great stories and hearing Rob tell Alexa to call his "hot wife". His loss is profound but so is the legacy he leaves behind. Love you Rob!*

Cheri Potrok - May 05 at 08:55 AM

LI

“ *Rob driving "The Boys " to the Long Beach Grand Prix. If you were lucky enough to ride in the "Fridge" you know the high jinx that went down*

Love and miss you Bert

lick - May 02 at 06:21 PM

RV

“ *Robert was the best brother any little sister could ask for. There are too many great things to say about my brother, so I will summarize it with this: my brother shaped me to who I am today. His spirit and perseverance taught me to never give up hope, have faith, and remember that all challenges can be overcome. I love you Bert!!*

Raquel Vernola - May 01 at 04:35 PM