

# Public servant nurtured a love of learning

BY JOHN MACCORMACK · SEPTEMBER 25, 2012 · Updated: September 25, 2012 10:03pm

Born poor and raised by his grandparents in North Carolina, **Ed Miles Jr.** never stopped reading and never looked back.

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Ed Miles Jr.

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#### MORE INFORMATION

**Ed Miles Jr.**

**Born:** Jan. 8, 1945, in Fayetteville, N.C.

**Died:** Sept. 17, San Antonio

**Survived by:** His wife, Jewell; son, Eddie III; daughter, Danielle; granddaughter, Olivia Jewel; and sisters Mary Dailey, Barbara Jean Graham, Sandra Lyles and Debbie Edwards.

college education and three advanced degrees, became an Air Force officer, won the confidence of a governor and president, and most importantly, left a rich legacy of community service in his adopted hometown.

"I believe in the old Chinese proverb: 'By nature all men are alike, but education makes them different,'" he said years ago. On another occasion, he recalled how his grandparents had made him an early believer.

"When I was 3, they bought me my own desk and chair, and they subscribed to a paper even though I couldn't read. It made me feel special," he said.

Miles, 67, died suddenly at home on Sept. 17. At his funeral Monday at the **New Jerusalem Baptist Church**, military officers, elected officials and friends from various walks of life filled the pews. Resolutions were read from Gov. **Rick Perry**, **Congressman Lamar Smith** and state Rep. **Ruth Jones McClendon**.

"A patriot, beloved friend and passionate Texan. He made God laugh!" exclaimed Perry in a condolence message.

His widow, Jewell, who met Miles on a blind date in Denver in 1968, recalled him as one who marched to the beat of a different and well-read drummer.

"He lived in his own world. He always had a book. Every time he'd go on a trip, I'd have to buy him a book, usually about politics," she said.

His granddaughter Olivia, a freshman at UTSA, confirmed his lifelong focus on education.

"He was always asking me if I was caught up, how I did on tests. He'd ask, 'Are you going to get a 4.0?' I was motivated, partly out of respect and partly out of fear," she said.

Retiring from the service in 1986, Miles worked first for the Bexar County sheriff and since 1999 as the district attorney's soft-spoken public emissary.

"He was my eyes and ears, my caring liaison to the community," DA Susan Reed said.

Miles also taught government in the Alamo Colleges system, served on various state boards and the **Live Oak City Council**, was president of the Republican Men's Club of Bexar County and vice-president of the local branch of the **NAACP**. He also helped start a monthly forum for African-American businessmen and others to hear speakers and discuss issues of the day.

"Mr. Miles was the driver, finding speakers and trying to get people to come," said **Joy McGhee**, a student of Miles' who is involved in the Lighthouse Luncheons.

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