



## Michael Miner

August 13, 1943 - May 1, 2025

Michael Richard Miner, 81, journalist, of Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood, passed away May 1, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Saint Louis, Missouri, Mike graduated from Kirkwood High School at age 15. He then studied engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology. At 19, he completed a BA in journalism from the University of Missouri and proudly became a member of MENSA. His first job was for Watkins products, selling household goods like vanilla extract door-to-door. His first writing job was for the Disciples of Christ Christian Catalogue, where he contributed copy like "Before you chow down, be sure to bow down."

Mike enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served on an aircraft carrier off North Vietnam in the Gulf of Tonkin. After an honorable discharge, he got a job as a reporter and editor in Saint Louis at United Press International before moving to Chicago to work at the Chicago Sun-Times. In 1975, he took a leave of absence from the Sun-Times to go back to Vietnam to report on the end of the war. As it drew to a close, instead of taking a spot on one of the last choppers out of Saigon, Mike posed as the husband and father of a young Vietnamese family to help them escape to Paris. He spent a decade as a reporter at the Sun-Times and freelancing for the Chicago Reader, including writing for the Reader's inaugural issue, in 1971. He moved over to the Reader to work full-time in 1979, editing the weekly Hot Type media column

and eventually taking over the column himself while continuing to edit other writers. During his career as a journalist he won the Chicago Headline Club's Peter Lisagor Awards for Best News Column or Commentary in 1991, 1992, and 2008.

Sometime in the early 1970s, Mike ambled into a Lakeview boutique called Presence to buy granola. There he met Betsy, the love of his life. They married on June 11, 1977.

Mike was funny, modest, patient, pensive, loyal, competitive, kind, and honest to a fault, and he didn't take himself too seriously. He was a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals fan and enjoyed spending time with his family at the Villa Ruta in Union Pier, Michigan. Mike served a term on the Board of Trustees at the Francis W. Parker School and tutored third graders at LaSalle Language Academy for eight years.

Beloved spouse of 48 years to Betsy Nore.

Devoted father of Molly (Alex Rosenthal), Joanna (Daniel Thomas), and Laura Miner.

Proud and loving grandfather of Solomon and Neva Rosenthal and Elise and Jesse Thomas.

Loving brother of Dixie (the late John McIlwraith), Peter, Clyde (Joyce), and Mary Michele (Paul Perri) Miner.

Preceded in death by parents Richard Smith Miner and Elisabeth Caroline Matthey.

Gathering for Mike, Monday, May 19 at the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton,

Chicago. Doors open 2:30pm, program begins 3:30pm.

Livestream the event here: <http://youtube.com/live/nWpuYsgUIZQ>

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the Newberry Library: <https://www.newberry.org/support/make-a-gift>.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305, or [www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com](http://www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com).

# Previous Events

## Gathering

MAY **19**. 3:30 PM (CT)

Newberry Library  
60 West Walton  
Chicago, IL 60610  
<https://www.newberry.org/>

*2:30 doors, 3:30 program*

# Tribute Wall



“ *Inclusive Funeral Care created a Webcast in memory of Michael Miner*



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**Team Inclusive Funeral Care** - May 12, 2025 at 11:04 PM

DG

“ *Mike with his bucket hat at all those AYSO games, a smile and laugh, his fatherly fondness showing brightly rain or shine, here and in Kalamazoo too, the best of a soccer parent. Such a fun time it was. So much will we miss Mike. Our love to Betsie and her wonderful daughters. Dick and Andi*

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**Dick Ginsburg** - May 11, 2025 at 01:57 PM

BR

“ *Anyone who wanted to know about Chicago media, how they were doing, and how they were perceived had to start with Hot Type. He taught us how to think about ourselves, and he was an obudsman for Chicago media before we knew what that word meant. Thanks for keeping us honest, informed, and sometimes wise. Deepest condolences to your family and friends at this toughest of times.*

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**Bob Rowley** - May 06, 2025 at 01:15 AM

MG

“ *RIP Mike. You were certainly one of a kind !  
Loved when you were investigating a story -you were amazing !  
Thinking of you - Betsy and your beautiful family. Marlene granacki  
and family.*

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**marlene granacki** - May 05, 2025 at 03:51 PM

RH

“ *Michael Miner was a great journalist who meticulously reported on  
some of the most controversial events in journalism. He was fair. He  
was a good friend who covered my many "15 minutes of fame" that  
he called it as a journalist and as a former journalist. I loved talking  
to him about politics and Chicago recent City Hall history. He is  
missed. My condolences to his family.*

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**Ray Hanania** - May 04, 2025 at 06:54 PM

JP

“ *I loved Mike. And I understood how much my father revered him.  
After my Dad died, I could always connect with Mike... it was almost  
an unspoken thing... he understood... in a way that other who i  
encountered in my young life didn't. And very unexpectedly about  
ten years ago, he wrote an article about my acting and comedy...  
and it felt so good. To be seen. I know i wasn't the only person he  
truly saw, and i'm so grateful to have known him and his light. Last  
year, I unexpectedly encountered him at a cafe in Roscoe Village - i  
was visiting town and he was waiting for his car to be fixed, and we  
sat at talked for an hour. I'm so glad i got to soak in his spirit once  
more. Much love to all of you. John Pick*

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**John Pick** - May 04, 2025 at 04:10 PM

SC

“ Here is Mike’s senior yearbook entry from the Kirkwood High School Pioneer.

*I had no idea he was two or three years younger than the rest of his classmates. That is a big difference at that age. I can’t say I knew him well or that we moved in the same cliques, but I remember him as being one of the smarter ones.*

*At a class reunion many years after our 1959 graduation, he approached me and said, “Thank you”. I said, “Huh?”. It is amazing what memories stay with us. What he remembered about me was that one day in physical ed class we were picking teams to play basketball. Perhaps because he was so much younger Mike wasn’t as coordinated as many of us and usually wasn’t picked. Well, apparently I chose him first and made sure to pass him the ball as much as I could. I had forgotten that but thirty or forty years later it was still meaningful to Mike.*

Steve

KHS’59



stephen coester - May 04, 2025 at 01:01 PM

QT

“ 50 years ago, Michael helped us to escape out of Viet Nam 4 days before the Saigon Fall : I never forget this because it changes the destiny of my family. Then we know Betsy and Molly in Paris in 1977, later Joanna and Laura. My best souvenir of Michael is at the wedding of my daughter in France, she was a baby of 1 year old when we leaves Viet Nam.  
Rest in peace Mike, and thank you for all.



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Quang TRAN - May 04, 2025 at 06:03 AM

DM

“ When Mike and I were children living in Sudbury, Ontario, we heard from multiple sources that there was a monster, likely an alien, spotted in the hills that surround Sudbury. So we wrapped up two baloney sandwiches in wax, grabbed our bikes and cycled out into the hills to track down the monster. Our mother seemed perfectly happy with the plan. With five children, anything that kept at least two of them out of her hair was fine. I am not sure if we had any plan for what we would do if we found the monster, Mike might have interviewed him, but probably not. I would have likely just followed him around until he ate us.  
There are a lot of hills around Sudbury and they have caves and hiding holes so it took us awhile but eventually we found someplace comfortable to sit and ate our sandwiches. I don't think we discussed it, but eventually by mutual consent we gave up our quest and headed home. However the rumor of sightings stopped so perhaps we put a good scare into him.

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Dixie Miner McIlwraith - May 03, 2025 at 11:20 PM

DS

“ He was a giant. One of the best media reporters to do the damn thing. Cared so much about Chicago and about all of us that did the work.

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**Dan Sinker** - May 03, 2025 at 11:18 PM

 Charlie Meyerson

“ Mike was one of Chicago’s most insightful media critics. And I don’t say that just because he wrote some of my favorite pieces about my work, bless him.

*May he rest in peace.*

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**Charlie Meyerson** - May 03, 2025 at 10:43 PM

CI

“ Dear Betsy, Joanna, Molly and Laura - Michael was one of a kind, so compassionate in his intelligence, with a great smile and kindness always. I've missed seeing you all over the last years, but have thought of you with great fondness, even just this afternoon before I read this sad news. May you find solace together and in the community of people who care about you and Michael, including us. Love Chris Imhoff, also Becky, Serena and Scott Bernstein.

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**Christine Imhoff** - May 03, 2025 at 07:58 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Team Inclusive Funeral Care** - May 02, 2025 at 02:40 PM

JA

*In the 1970s, Mike gave me my first break at the Chicago Reader. I learned a lot about media criticism from him that I used in my Newsweek column in the 1990s. He was a warm, loving guy and I'll miss him.*

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**Jonathan Alter** - May 17, 2025 at 05:12 PM

CM

*See you later, Mike. And then let's talk about everything.*

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**Clyde Miner** - May 19, 2025 at 11:26 AM