

WWII Veteran  
**RM2 William Fredrick Miller, Jr.**  
Diploma Ceremony



Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School  
Veterans Day, 2020

Issued on November 11, 2020

# Graduation Program

Pledge of Allegiance and Star Spangled Banner .....	Francis Coccozza
Welcome & Biography of our Honored Recipient .....	Lynne Rutnik
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Conclusion & Thank You's .....	Francis Coccozza



## **Lake George Central School District Board of Education**

President - Tricia Connor Biles

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Francis Coccozza

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Michael Tolan

## **Bishop Maginn High School Director of Development**

Rebecca Ann S. Bliss

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# Honored Guests

**Betty Little**

New York State Senator

**Dan Stec**

New York State Assemblyman

**Jim LaFarr**

Warren County Sheriff

**Dennis Dickinson**

Supervisor, Town of Lake George

**Robert M. Blais**

Mayor, Village of Lake George

**Scott Smith**

Chief, Lake George Volunteer Fire Department

**Lori Combs**

President, Lake George Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary

**Randy Powell**

Commander, Lake George American Legion Post 374

**DC1 Joshua Brown**

**HM1 Alex Locklear**

United States Navy

**Mike Hogan**

Ride Captain, Patriot Guard Riders, Region 4, New York



Born March 21, 1926, William Fredrick Miller, Jr. was the only child of Mary and William Miller of Albany, NY. At the completion of his junior year of high school at Albany's Vincentian Institute, Bill was drafted into the Navy in July of 1944.

Following boot camp and further training, he was assigned to the Armed Cargo Attack vessel, USS Oglethorpe as Radioman Petty Officer Second Class for the duration of his Naval career. He served in the Pacific Theatre during World War II.

Although earning his Shellback (crossing the Equator and being accepted into King Neptune's Court) and crossing the international date line multiple times, he never earned his high school diploma. He was offered a trip to Antarctica to assist Naval researchers at the end of the war; however, that would have required another four year contract with the Navy, so he declined. He was honorably discharged in 1946 and began his civilian life.

He married Marie Luther in 1949. They had five children together and remain happily married, celebrating 71 years together this past June 11th. He purchased property on Glen Lake from his father in 1951 and built their home. They continue to reside there to this day.

Ask Bill anything about Morse Code or the meanings of ship's flags, and without hesitation, he'll share that knowledge with you. The retention is remarkable. Getting him to share in any detail about his time on the ocean during World War II and he humbly remains quiet.

He did recently share one of their Battle Group's missions, which was to protect the Solomon Islands from the Japanese, on behalf of the British.

He IS part of the Greatest Generation and is proud to have served his Country.

