

Fred Miller



Whether he was fighting crime or battling opposing linemen, **Fred “Moose” Miller** certainly left his mark on the city of Norwalk.

The former standout lineman and longtime member of the Norwalk Police Department detective bureau grew up in the Spring Hill section of town and attended Jefferson Elementary School, Center Jr. High, and Norwalk High School. Then after a brief stint in the U.S. Navy, he went to the University of Bridgeport.

While at NHS between 1943–’45, Miller was a member of the football, hockey, and track teams. And although he played only one season of football for the Green & White, he’s remembered for picking off a key interception in a game against Stamford at Boyle Stadium. Miller also played two seasons on the hockey and track teams at Norwalk, but it was on the gridiron where he really made a name for

himself, especially after his high school days.

Upon returning home from the Navy, Miller was heavily recruited by Chuck Budin to play for the Norwalk Pastimes in 1947. After just one season though, Eddie McSally brought Miller over to the Spring Hill Tigers, with whom he played in 1948 and ’49 while carving out a reputation as a rough and tough lineman.

During one particular game against the Westport Advertisers, Miller broke his collarbone and his younger brother Robert had to fill in for him. “Rivets” Miller, who was three years younger than “Moose” and was greatly influenced by his big brother, went on to play nine years with the Detroit Lions and won three NFL championships.

Meanwhile, “Moose” Miller also stayed close to the game he loved by coaching Pop Warner football in Wilton and later in Redding, where he now resides.

Right about the time his playing days were drawing to a close, Miller joined the Norwalk Police Department in 1949, embarking on a successful career, which would last 27 years before he retired in 1976 as Captain in charge of the detective bureau.

Following his retirement, Miller became involved with several successful startup businesses such as commercial and residential construction, real estate development, and banking. He helped develop Connecticut First Capital, and was chairman of the board at Brookfield Bank. Miller also formed American Environmental Technology, retiring from its board of directors in 1998 while still serving as a consultant to the company.

Miller also became active in politics and is a lifetime member of the Redding Republican Town Committee. He also ran for the 5th District congressional seat along with Governor John Rowland. In fact, Miller has maintained a close friendship with the Connecticut governor for several years, and served as a Justice Commissioner for the state.

In addition, the 72-year-old Miller, who is married to the former Carol Soderstrom, has been a longtime member of the Lions International and was recognized with the Melvin Jones Award for service. He is also a member of the Masons, St. John’s No. 6, in Norwalk, and the Shriners of Bridgeport Valley.