

Up To Bat – Senior Slugger Player Profile

Name: Douglas Earl Miller, aka: Doug

Birthday: August 14th

Early Days: Originally from Glen Gardner, New Jersey about 40 minutes north of Trenton. Doug is the younger of two brothers and grew up in a family with more than its fair share of baseball players. He played 4 years of baseball at North Hunterdon High School (shortstop and left field) and 4 years of football (defensive back and wide receiver) graduating in 1963. Doug's father was a flight instructor in WW2 for the Army Air Corps, stationed in Arizona. Naturally, with that kind of DNA, Doug took to the sky early, starting to fly at the age of 16 and earning his private pilot's license at the age of 17 before graduating from high school.

After high school Doug enrolled at Glassboro State College in New Jersey and majored in Physical Education. While there he played both baseball and football for Glassboro. Before graduating he earned his commercial pilot's license. After graduation Doug played 3 years of semi-pro ball alongside several former major leaguers – Remy Stennet, Manny Sanguillen, and Steve Braun, to name just three.

Work: After college Doug worked as a first responder, volunteer fireman, and EMS in Jersey for 3 years. He then took a detour into the food brokerage business for 15 to 20 years before moving to Florida and getting back into the air as a commercial pilot, flying guests back and forth from Florida to the Crystal Palace Casino and Resort - Bahamas. He officially retired as a pilot at the age of 60 in 2004.

Family: Doug had two sons from his first marriage. Both died tragically, youngest son Douglas at the age of 27 in a swimming accident and oldest son Scott at the age of 45 in a hit-and-run motorcycle accident.

After being together for a number of years living in Florida and Costa Rica, Doug married the love of his life Karen, 7 years ago. Bride and groom moved to Hendersonville in 2018 and now split time between NC, Fla and Germany (where Karen's family is from).

Plus: As a commercial pilot for Crystal Casino, Doug had the opportunity to meet celebrities such as Betty White, Dom DeLuise and Brooke Shields. On the last flight of his career as a pilot he flew Bruce Willis to Nassau and fulfilled a dream for Bruce, allowing him to enter the cockpit get behind the controls. Doug still has the autographed \$100 bill Bruce gratefully gave him for the experience.

If you're wondering why Doug is usually looking to play a few extra innings or another game, he goes by the motto that every inning missed is one you can never make up. He's grateful to still be able to play a kid's game with people he considers family.