

Lesley “Les” Miller, Jr. has always felt that public service was how he could give back to his community, state, and country. He has done just that for over thirty-four years. Most recently, completing his term in 2020 as a Member of the Hillsborough County Commission representing the 3rd District.

Extensive public service on the Commission, however, does not begin the career of Les Miller. He served as a member of the Florida Senate, 18th District from 2000 to 2006. During his tenure in the Senate, he served in various capacities, including Democratic Leader from 2004-2006, Democratic Leader Pro Tempore from 2002-2004, Democratic Whip from 2000-2002, and Vice Chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee from 2004-2006 and was the co-author of a \$70 billion and \$73 billion budgets respectfully.

Prior to being elected to the Senate, he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1992. Les Miller served as Democratic Leader from 1998-2000. During his career in both the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, he established a reputation for bipartisan, innovative compromise, and cooperation to improve the lives of his constituency, especially as legislation affects education, the elderly, and health initiatives.

His sense of hard work, compassion, and fair play was publicly recognized when Florida A&M University bestowed upon him an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humane Letters in 2005. In addition, he has received many awards and honors, including; The University of South Florida Distinguished Alumnus Award, The University of South Florida President’s Distinguished Citizens Award, Florida A&M University President’s Award, Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches Morris Milton Award, Florida Education Association President’s Award, and the American Jewish Community’s Lawton Chiles Florida Religious Award.

He is a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., the Harram Temple No. 23, Inc. of Prince Hall Shriners, 32nd Degree Mason, Life Member Landmark Lodge No. 93 of Prince Hall Free & Accepted Mason, Life Member of the NAACP, 100 Black Men, Life Member of the University of South Alumni Association, and many other organizations.

Les Miller was born in Tampa, FL on April 21, 1951, the 2nd of two children to the late Lesley Miller, Sr., and the late Shaddie Miller. He attend the public schools of Hillsborough County and graduate from Middleton High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from The University of South Florida in 1978 where he graduated with distinction, and studied additionally toward the Master of Public Administration. He made history as the first student to serve on the former Board of Regents for the State of Florida from 1977-79.

He served his country honorably by serving in the United States Air Force from 1970-74. He is the former Director, Office of Community Relations and Director, Office of the Student Ombudsman at The University of South Florida.

He and his wife, Gwendolyn “Gwen” Miller, former Member of the Tampa City Council are the parents of four children: daughter Le’Jean and sons Lesley III, James, and Arthur, and they are the grandparents of six. He is a member of the New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church where he serves as a Deacon and a Trustee.