

In Memory of ICTFL's First President

John E. Miles, age 82, passed away at his residence on Sunday, April 16, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. John was instrumental in the organization of the Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and served ICTFL as its first President, beginning in October 1987.

John E. Miles, eldest son of the late Ernest and Olive Miles of Gloucester, England, was raised in Wales and England. He received his BA/MA Honors from Oxford University, PhD from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and his MBA from Eastern University, PA.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years Sara (Wasson) Miles, daughter Julia (David) Robinson, son Stephen (Sarah) Miles, his grandchildren, John and Mark Robinson, Anna and Nathan Miles, and is fondly remembered by his brothers in the UK Philip (Gill) Miles and Andrew (Nikki) Miles as well as nieces and nephews both in the US and in England.

He served as a teacher/missionary to the Democratic Republic of Congo and participated in a wide variety of mission related organizations, most recently by doing translation work for MissionAssist UK and Presbyterian (USA) World Mission. He also raised funds for a variety of local and global mission projects by making jams and jellies available for donations. He was knighted by the French government into the Ordres des Palmes Académiques for his vast services to French and foreign language teaching. He was also awarded the Illinois Lieutenant Governor's Award for his contribution to foreign language education due to his decades as a professor at Wheaton College and his leadership in state and national foreign language teachers' organizations, and also received the 2014 Prix du Chapitre from the Chicago/Northern Illinois AATF Chapter in which he was very active.

His life can be summarized as one of faith, family, and service to others. Services were held Saturday, April 22, 2023. Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 1803 83rd St., Kenosha, WI 53143 for the South Sudan School for Girls, or the Grace Lutheran Church Welcome Center.