

Memorial resolution

In memoriam

Professor emeritus Richard E. Miers

October 29, 1932 – October 20, 2022

The PFW physics community lost a long-time beloved member, Professor of physics Richard Ernest Miers, on October 20, 2022. Born on October 29, 1932, Richard demonstrated talent from a very young age – for example he started reading at age four. His college career was interrupted by three years of service in the Army for the Korean War and later in the National Guard. Richard completed his bachelor's degree at Wisconsin State College in 1957. Then he devoted his whole life to a teaching career. He started teaching at a high school in Cadott Wisconsin for two years before he earned his master's degrees in physics and education from the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1961. He then joined the department of physics at Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne. After three years of teaching here, he returned to the University of Wisconsin in Madison for his PhD in theoretical atomic physics in 1964. He came back to Purdue Fort Wayne in 1969 after his PhD and taught a broad spectrum of physics courses until he retired in 2003. Richard had research interests and made contributions in the fields of lasers, optical fiber amplifiers and digital circuitry. His enthusiasm for physics and teaching did not stop at retirement. As professor emeritus, he continued teaching and doing research at PFW part time until 2011.

Outside the classroom, his enjoyment of physics extended to his love of building remote control model airplanes as a member of the Flying Circuits Club in Fort Wayne. He designed, constructed, and flew some award-winning model airplanes. Dick also loved music and taught himself to play guitar and banjo. He spent his leisure time attending bluegrass festivals and fly fishing. He was also a member of American Legion Post 47.

With the combined 45 years of teaching and research at PFW, his experience influenced many students as well as several junior faculty members he mentored. Richard Miers was loved, respected and honored by family, friends, colleagues and students. His service and dedication are truly staying with the physics community and he is with us in our hearts.