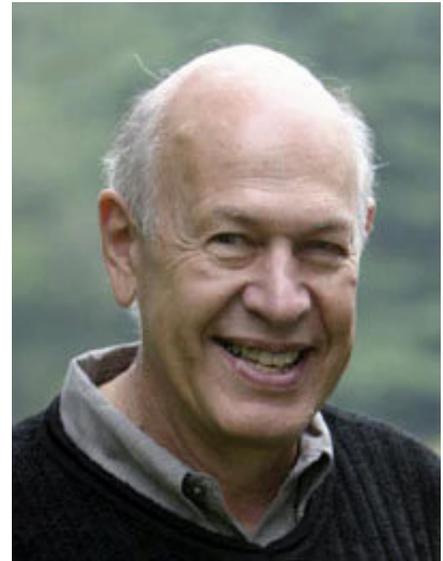

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT

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Lee N. Miller 1930–2016



Lee Miller in 2003

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The world and The Ecological Society of America have lost an exemplary and gracious individual with the passing of Lee Norman Miller. Lee suffered a stroke and passed away on June 4, 2016 at the age of 85. As Managing Editor of the journals of the Society for nearly two decades, Lee had an enormous influence on the remarkable reputation that the journals have enjoyed.

Lee earned his Bachelor's degree in 1953 in industrial production management from Southern Methodist University. After working for several years as a time-study engineer and in the family jewelry business, Lee returned to academia to receive his Master's degree in forestry in 1961 from Yale University and his Ph.D. in physiological plant ecology from Duke University in 1966, where he worked with Paul Kramer, an expert in plant water relations. In between his Master's and Ph.D. studies, Lee took a research position at Brookhaven National Laboratory. When the Division of Biological Sciences was created at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, initially formed by drawing together faculty from existing departments, Lee was the first new faculty member hired into its Section of Ecology and Systematics (E and S), and the first plant ecology faculty member in the university. He left E and S in 1972 but stayed with the university until assuming the Managing Editor position of the ESA journals in 1978. Starting in 1979, Lee also served as Editor-in-Chief for the journals *Ecology* and *Ecological*

Monographs. As such, he built and diversified the Board of Editors putting his extraordinary powers of persuasion and his incisive judgment to good use. Lee's passion for science across a wide spectrum, his superb writing skills, his broad life experiences, and his great integrity made him the ideal person to take on these tasks and transform the society's publishing agenda. In all of this, he had the support and partnership of his college sweetheart and wife of 62 years, Sylvia Dordek Miller.

Lee's dedication to the journals was evident throughout his tenure. When Lee won the Distinguished Service Award from the Society in 1996, Al Solomon noted that Lee's efforts resulted in eliminating the backlog of unpublished manuscripts, reduced time to publication, and brought the issues out on their publication dates, critical components of successful publishing.

Not only was Lee skilled at juggling so many demands and deadlines, but he did so graciously while simultaneously anticipating future developments, keeping the journals at the forefront of successful publishing trends, and building the reputation of the journals. He understood and respected the sacrifices that the authors, editors, and reviewers make to promote the science, and was an exceptional editor as well as an attentive mentor to staff. Lee ushered the journals into the modern age by developing a computer database for tracking manuscripts and using computers for communication at the earliest opportunity. He also promoted the use of ethical guidelines and maintained integrity in all aspects of the publishing process. Lee was awarded the Distinguished Service Citation from ESA in 1996 and the Council of Science Award for Meritorious Achievement in 2000. As evident from both award statements, Lee was honored for his high editorial standards and leadership. Commenting on Lee's Meritorious Achievement Award at the time, Dr. Jane Lubchenco stated that Lee is "a deeply thoughtful person, one who is interested in the broad landscape of science publishing and in the operating principles that guide science as a whole." Lee made it possible for everyone involved to take great pride in their work and in the reputation of the journals.

Lee did not slow down after retiring. In the Ithaca area, he served on the Tompkins County Library Board of Trustees and as Chair of the Board and was very involved in the computer literacy program there. He also served on the Board of Better Housing for Tompkins County, was active in his Fall Creek Neighborhood Association, political campaigns, and managed a book group, among several activities. He and his wife Sylvia were world travelers, and their love of language was evident in their efforts to learn and speak the local languages in their travels.

Several people have referred to Lee as endlessly curious; wise, kind, and very reasonable; good-hearted and generous; serious and caring; and good-humored and compassionate. Lee was all of these, and much more. He is survived by his wife Sylvia, their two children Danna Katzman and Benjamin Miller and their spouses, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Selected Awards

- Distinguished Service Citation. Awarded to Lee N. Miller. 1997. *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* 78:19–20. Courtesy of JSTOR.
- CSE Award for Meritorious Achievement: Presentation to Lee Miller. 2000. Barbara Meyers, Chair, Awards and Honors Committee. *Science Editor* 23(5):147.

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