The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC), and the respiratory care community are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of CoARC President Stephen P. Mikles, EdS, RRT, FAARC.

Stephen P. Mikles (“Steve” to those who knew him) completed his undergraduate studies in respiratory therapy at SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York and his graduate studies in education at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. His commitment to education and teaching was exemplified by his long, successful career as a Professor and Program Director of the Respiratory Care Program at Saint Petersburg College in Florida. Steve was an instructor at SUNY Upstate Medical Center from 1977 to 1979. He became a faculty member at St. Petersburg College in 1979 and had been the program director there since 1986. Steve had a reputation as an outstanding educator who was widely respected and admired by his students and peers.

Steve served as a member of the Joint Review Committee for Respiratory Therapy Education (JCRTE) from 1994-1998 and subsequently on the first Board of the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. He then served as President-Elect on the Board of the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care from 2009–2011, when he assumed the Presidency in November 2011 after completing the second of two consecutive terms in 2011. He served as Treasurer from 1997-1998 and from 2006-2009. He had been an active site visitor since 1989.

Steve was a respiratory care educator, a volunteer in respiratory care accreditation services during almost 20 years of service to CoARC and its predecessor organization. He was a member of the AARC continuously since 1973. He was a tireless promoter of excellence in education and the credentialing process. On November 2, 1975, he was awarded the NBRC’s standard of excellence, the RRT credential (Registry number 3309).
Stephen P. Mikles, EdS, RRT, FAARC  
September 9, 1952 - July 4, 2013

Steve’s service to the profession went beyond the accreditation arena. He had been actively involved in a number of committees with the NYSSRC, FSSRC, AARC and NBRC since the late 1970’s. In 2008, the AARC bestowed one of its highest honors on Steve Mikles by recognizing him as a Fellow of the American Association for Respiratory Care for his outstanding character, dedication and service. Although he served on many state and national committees, he considered his work in the classroom as his greatest contribution to the profession.

Steve was an outstanding and determined individual with a strong character. He had a very positive attitude and truly embraced doing everything he could to better his profession. He had an unrivaled dedication to helping educational programs as evidenced by his experience with and time spent on improving program outcomes. During his many years with CoARC, Steve was instrumental in helping many other new board members gain the skills and judgment required to function properly as a Referee. His involvement and achievements in various professional activities served as an inspiration for each of us. Steve’s involvement, knowledge, and contributions have been instrumental to the success of our accreditation system.

Steve Mikles’ extensive history with CoARC and his countless volunteer hours working with other state and national organizations over the past two decades has served as an invaluable resource to many students, colleagues, to CoARC, and to the profession.

Steve Mikles was also a beloved husband, father, grandfather, educator, leader, mentor and friend. He touched countless lives and he will be greatly missed.

Services for Steve Mikles will be at the Moss Feaster Funeral Home on 693 Belcher Road, Clearwater, FL from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday night and a mass will be on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Light of Christ Catholic Church, 2176 Maryland Street (near Belcher Road) in Clearwater, FL.
Stephen P. Mikles, EdS, RRT, FAARC  
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A reception will follow the mass in the church hall. You can share memories of Steve or express your condolences on the following website:


Lisa Collard, Steve Mikles, and Jana Anderson
Stephen P. Mikles, EdS, RRT, FAARC
September 9, 1952 - July 4, 2013

Ralph Kendall, Steve Mikles, and Tom Smalling