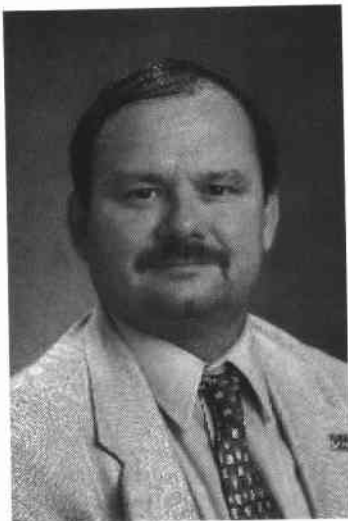


OBITUARY

MICHAEL J. PERICH 1957–2003



Sadly, Michael Perich died in a 1-vehicle automobile accident October 11, 2003. He was raised in Nebraska and received his bachelor's degree (with 3 majors—chemistry, entomology, and zoology) from Iowa State University. He earned his master's and doctorate degrees from Oklahoma State University.

Mike was a dedicated entomologist who considered himself a field scientist. His work impacted the populations of many developing countries as well as U.S. soldiers, sailors, and airmen deployed worldwide. Mike had been robbed at gunpoint during his travels to Southeast Asia, Central and South American, Korea, and Africa, and was shot down while flying over Africa. He spoke Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, French Russian, Polish, Hungarian, Swahili, and phrases in Thai and other languages.

From 1986 to 1992, Mike worked for the U.S. Army Medical Bioengineering Research and Development Laboratory at Fort Detrick in Frederick,

MD, where he worked on developing entomological surveillance and control equipment for the Army as a research medical entomologist and a vector suppression program manager. In 1992, he transferred to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, DC, and Silver Spring, MD. While working for the Army, Mike served on at least 29 major projects in 12 different countries. The use of insecticides, personal insect repellents, and insect traps were major topics of his research. In the fall of 2002, Mike was awarded the Superior Civilian Service Award, the Army's highest civilian honor.

As well as being a dedicated scientist, Mike was dedicated to his family. To spend more time at home, he made a change to university life. In August 2001, he became an assistant professor of medical entomology at Louisiana State University (LSU), Baton Rouge, LA. While working at the LSU AgCenter and with the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association, he quickly became a major force in a statewide initiative to expand the number of parishes supporting their own mosquito control programs.

Mike was a long-time member of the American Mosquito Control Association and other scientific societies. He made many friends throughout the world during his extensive travels, and my family and I enjoyed his company at our house on his trips to Thailand. His energy, dedication, and sense of humor will be sorely missed.

Mike is survived by his wife Audrey (Bunni) Perich and daughter Sarah Perich, both of Baton Rouge, LA.

Aiding children in developing countries was one of Mike's charitable interests. Contributions can be made in his name to either Food for the Poor, Inc., or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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