



OBITUARY

Charles J. Miller

11 September 1952–27 March 1999
Secretary-Treasurer of the Coastal Education &
Research Foundation [CERF]
[1990–1999]

For the last decade, Charlie Miller served CERF in the capacity of Secretary-Treasurer. Succumbing to a lung cancer that metastasized to the liver, Charlie died at age 46. He was a major player in CERF business activities and participated in numerous special events, including the organization of the International Coastal Symposium (ICS'98) that was held at the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida, last May. Charlie, a graduate of the University of Delaware, majored in business administration and started his career as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). He subsequently branched out into other fields but maintained his interest and skills in accounting.

As secretary-treasurer, Charlie Miller was responsible for a wide range of duties that included keeping minutes of meetings, overseeing annual written actions to elect directors and trustees, preparation of operating budgets, tax-based activities for a non-profit organization, securing print quotes for special issues and advertising, cost estimates for mass mailings, and overseeing general expenditures and financial commitments, among other tasks. Charlie performed all of his duties willingly, on a *pro bono* basis, and with compassion for his fellow workers at CERF. He had the unusual ability to get along with everyone in a most pleasant and rewarding way. CERF subcontractors enjoyed working with Charlie

Miller and held him in high esteem. Charlie's skilled endeavors were able to turn routine tasks or difficult negotiations into pleasant exercises that were conducted with a smile and often concluded with just a handshake, instead of a formal written contract. Charlie's word was his bond and he stood by it through to completion.

During Charlie's tenure with CERF, he oversaw financial aspects for production of about 12,100 pages in the regular issues (Volumes 6 through 15) and 5400 pages in 22 special issues (SI numbers 6 through 28). He approved more than US\$ 3 million in expenses getting the most for the Foundation's money. If there ever was a bargain hunter, it was Charlie Miller. He could always ferret out the best deals in town and always had CERF's best interest at heart.

Charlie Miller, not an 'ocean person' originally but by his association with CERF, came to love the sea and especially the coastal zone for its intrinsic beauty, recreational value, and as an area of scientific study. As he gained insight into the numerous problems of the coastal zone, Charlie Miller became a staunch conservationist and assisted many local organizations in their efforts to preserve and conserve natural coastal environments.

Charlie Miller helped lead CERF to new horizons and set the financial stage for our secure entry into the next century. We will miss Charlie's talents, his insight, and good nature.

Charles W. Finkl
President and Executive Director
West Palm Beach, Florida