

Dr. John G. Merriam

by [Chris Merriam](#) on Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 12:14pm ·

John Goodwin Merriam, PhD., of Ottawa Hills, OH, formerly of Bowling Green, passed quietly from his earthly life on September 30, 2009 at his home with his wife and caregiver at his side after an injury from a fall in 2007. John was a gentle, quiet and tolerant person who accepted all people. He thought deeply about futuristic ideas and was an acknowledged area expert in Middle Eastern Affairs.

He was born in Lausanne, Switzerland on March 27, 1933, the child of Gordon P. and Eunice Brandt Merriam. In 1951, he graduated from the Loomis School and was a 1955 graduate of Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. He received his M.A. from Boston University in 1962 and his Ph.D. in Political Science from Indiana University in 1970. He served in the US Army from 1955-1958 and was based in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany.

John taught at Bowling Green State University for the majority of his teaching career, from 1967-1993. He was a specialist in Middle East studies, oil politics, African political systems, and French. He also taught at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, from 1964-1967. He authored many papers more than twenty articles and chapters in books on the Middle East.

His foreign language ability included French, Italian, German, Egyptian Colloquial, Modern Standard Arabic, and Spanish. Early in his career he was active in Amnesty International, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

In retirement, he was a part time instructor at Lourdes College, Sylvania, and BGSU. He was a board member of Greater Toledo Arab American Association for several years. He was a member of The Torch Club, the English-Speaking Union and several wine societies.

John and his wife Nancy, the former Nancy Harrison Fox, were married for 16 years. They spent their summers in Harpswell, ME where they hosted large family reunions at their summer home. They were frequent European travelers and enjoyed renting homes in France and Italy with a group of special friends.

The family wishes to thank the staffs at Regency Hospital, Heartland of Waterville, Hospice of Northwest Ohio, his dear friend Dr. Mounir ElKhatib and, especially, his home caregivers for the generous and loving care he received.

Those wishing to provide a memorial, in John's name, are asked to consider St. Mark's Episcopal Church or Anera at www.anera.org.

A celebration of John's life will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Monday, October 12, 2009 at 11 AM and next summer at Windrift, his cottage, in Maine.