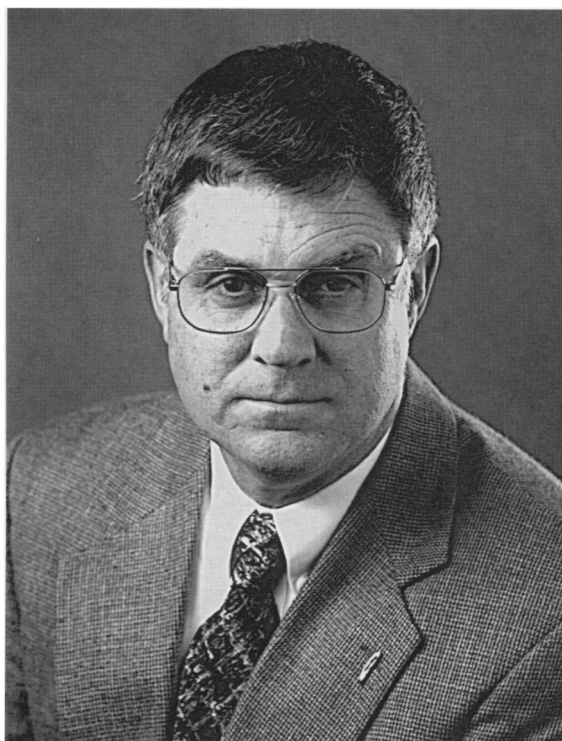


## **Dr. J. Kirk Skeeles**



John Kirkpatrick Skeeles, died on March 21, 1999, in Beijing during a lecture tour of agricultural universities in China. He was born in June 1945 in Alexandria, LA, the son Jack C. and Ella Maude Kirkpatrick Skeeles. He earned a B.S. degree in Animal Husbandry at Oklahoma State University in 1967 and a D.V.M. from that institution in 1969. His graduate training was completed at the University of Georgia, where he obtained a Master of Science in Microbiology in 1977 and a Ph.D. the following year. He was a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologist (1980) and the American College of Poultry Veterinarians (1992) which he served as Secretary-Treasurer.

Dr. Skeeles was employed in general veterinary practice during 1968 and 1969 before serving full-time in the military in various posts in the USA and Europe through 1975 when he entered graduate school. On completion of the doctoral program he was appointed to the faculty of the University of Arkansas and was actively involved in teaching, research and service. He held the rank of Professor in the Center for Poultry Excellence in the College of Agriculture at the time of his passing.

He had a distinguished career in the military extending from 1966 onwards as a Veterinarian and later in the Civil Military Task Force. In this capacity he served in Operations "Desert Shield", "Desert Storm" and "Provide Comfort" and was later mobilized to provide assistance in Bosnia during 1996 and 1997. He contributed to the economic reconstruction of food animal

agriculture in Bosnia following the civil war and was instrumental in administering a \$3 million US AID grant to reestablish 17 poultry operations in the Federation.

His accomplishments included pivotal research on the pathogenesis and serology of Infectious Bursal Disease under the mentoring of Drs. Lukert and Fletcher at the University of Georgia. Subsequent work involved the development of an ELISA procedure for *Bordetella* and the development of a hemorrhagic enteritis virus model to investigate colibacillosis in turkeys. More recently he was involved in investigating the etiology of proventriculitis. During his tenure at the University of Arkansas he was instrumental in motivating students to excel in aspects of poultry science and was an acknowledged role model and advisor for graduate students and younger faculty members. He was always ready to assist and share his considerable experience and contributed materially to the success of colleagues and students and the advancement of knowledge in the area of poultry veterinary medicine.

He was active in the Church of Christ, Latter-Day Saints, Fayetteville, where he served as a counselor in the bishopric and as a Scout Master.

He was a member of the AVMA, AAAP, WVPA, Sigma Xi and Gamma Sigma Delta. He was the recipient of a number of military awards for humanitarian service and achievement, including the Bronze Star and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. At the time of his death he held the rank of Lt. Colonel.

His untimely passing shortened a career devoted to service to the University of Arkansas, the profession and community. His contribution to poultry veterinary medicine and society will be sadly missed but his ideals will continue through his students, colleagues and fellow church members. He will be mourned, not only by his family and colleagues, but by all those he assisted in Northern Iraq and the Balkans.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Skeeles, who assisted him with secretarial duties for the ACPV, two daughters and sons-in law, four grandchildren and his son, John K. Skeeles, Jr., currently serving as a missionary in Santiago, Chile.

He was buried in Fayetteville with full military honors on Saturday, March 27, 1999.