

Dr. Richard H. Mitchell, Curators' Research Professor Emeritus in the Department of History died in March 2022 from complications from a fall. He was two weeks shy of his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Born in 1931 in Beardstown, IL, a descendent of Abraham Lincoln's mother, Dick was proud of his family lineage. He joined the Army and served in Japan and Korea during the Korean Conflict. Wounded, he recuperated in Japan, where he became captivated with the country and later returned as a graduate student and where he met Yoshiko, the great love of his life. With the support of G.I. Bill education benefits, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he received a B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. While in the military, he also learned Japanese, which served him well when he returned to the U.S. and pursued studies in Japanese history. Over the course of a long career, Dick published prolifically on wide-ranging subjects from censorship in imperial Japan, to Korean minorities, political criminals, to the notorious Teijin Scandal. He was highly respected by fellow Japanese historians and Japan Studies scholars, and his research earned him a Chancellor's Award for Research and Creativity in 1992 and a Curator's Research Professor appointment in 2001. He was a Research Associate and friend and colleague to many in the UMSL Center for International Studies throughout the years. Though his retirement meant he left the classroom full-time, he continued to teach part-time for several years, and actively research, and run, walk, or drive his classic beater to pick up his daily *New York Times* and enjoy visits with his colleagues and friends until the pandemic closed campus in March 2020.

When Professor Mitchell joined the faculty at UMSL in 1970 as an associate professor, after various appointments at the University of Maryland in Tokyo, State University of New York, New Paltz, University of Nebraska, and University of Rochester, the campus was in its early days, and he is among the dedicated faculty who made their careers at UMSL. Dick left an indelible mark on the many students and colleagues he worked with over decades. His remaining colleagues in the History Department remember fondly Dick's fashionable attire, his colorful stories, knowledgeable conversation on nearly any topic, and especially his no non-sense advice and unwavering support for his very junior colleagues. Dick was the first to greet us when we moved into our offices, usually sharing much needed department and campus insights.

Yoshiko Mitchell, his spouse of 62 years, wrote that Dick was not only a consummate academic, but an "endlessly loving husband, a friend of sterling, unfailing caliber. He was a character, unforgettable." Indeed, he was. With his wife and his circle of friends, we mourn his passing and take joy in having had him our lives.