

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE ABRAHAM



Dr. George Abraham was born in New York City. He received his bachelor's degree from Brown University in 1940. In 1936, while a freshman at Brown, he founded the first college radio station; the Brown Network later grew into the vast Inter-collegiate Broadcasting System. George received his master's degree in engineering from Harvard University and his doctorate in physics from the University of Maryland. He did postdoctoral study at both MIT and Harvard.

Dr. Abraham died August 28, 1995, at his summer home at Popham Beach, Maine, following a heart attack. He was 77 years old.

He began his career at RCA in New Jersey, but he spent 54 years, most of his working life, at the Naval Research Laboratory. He started at NRL during World War II as a communications and radar specialist. Later, he was involved with solid-state physics and multivariate logic. He was an early advocate of microelectronics, portions of which later evolved into integrated circuits. At NRL he also served as chief of the systems application office. Earlier, Dr. Abraham joined the U. S. Naval Reserve, ultimately reaching the rank of Captain. He received the Edison Award from NRL (1971) and the Desert Storm Science and Engineering Award from the Navy.

Dr. Abraham was the author of 50 technical papers and several book chapters. He also held 20 patents. He was a fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). The IEEE honored him with the Harry Diamond Memorial Award (1981) for research and professional work. He also received at least four IEEE Service Awards. He served as president of both the Washington Academy of Sciences and the Washington Society of Engineers. Dr. Abraham was also elected to eleven honorary societies.

George was a devoted family man. He and his late wife Hilda had four children. In addition to children and grandchildren, another "member" of the family was his llama Shasta. In the late 1960s, Shasta actually had a Naval Research Laboratory picture badge. His hobbies included sailing, skiing, mountaineering, scuba diving, music, and travel.

Dr. Abraham was one of the founders of the Government Microcircuit Applications Conference (1968). In 1986 he was given the GOMAC Founders' Award, the only person so honored thus far. GOMAC was created in large part out of the Navy Laboratory Microelectronics Program Conferences, in which he also played a major role (the first of these meetings was held in June 1961). Dr. Abraham was a member of the GOMAC Steering Committee from the first through to the present meeting. Beginning with Gomac '96, the best paper award will be known as the George Abraham Best Paper Award.