

In Memoriam



Brian Hendrickson
(1944–1997)

THIS Special Issue of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MICROWAVE THEORY AND TECHNIQUES recognizes, with appreciation, the work and contributions of Brian Hendrickson (S'65–M'66–SM'90). Brian was dedicated to the concept of photonics—his favorite picture showed Albert Einstein looking at his shadow, with a quote, “For the rest of my life I want to reflect on what light is.” Brian had a keen knowledge of photonics and of basic research in materials and devices. He knew where the hurdles were and how to invest efforts wisely, so that the promises of optical signal processing, optical memory, and RF photonics could become practical realities. He enlisted and supported hundreds of researchers throughout the U.S., helping to mold a synergistic thrust which continues to propel photonics from the spark-gap era into the future. He asked the right questions, so that others could pursue the right answers.

Brian received the M.S. degree in electronic engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, in 1967, and began his career as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force working at Rome Air Development Center (now Rome Laboratory). He initially worked as part of a team conducting experiments designed to characterize transmission errors over

various media. Quickly, his career encompassed other fields including troposcatter radio, digital microwave, and fiber-optic communications. Later, he became Associate Chief Scientist for Photonics at Rome Laboratory and a program manager for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), guiding much of the Department of Defense (DoD) research and development program in RF photonics. Brian worked hard to unify the Services efforts in fiber optics, acting as co-chair and chair of the DoD fiber-optics coordinating committee. He was one of the principal contributors to the semiannual Tri-Services fiber-optic conferences and served as chair of several of them. From its beginning, he was involved in the DARPA-sponsored Photonics Systems for Antenna Applications (PSAA) conference. He also ably represented the photonics area on DoD review panels including the Advisory Group on Electron Devices and the Technology Area Reviews. Brian also served as associate editor of the IEEE PHOTONICS TECHNOLOGY LETTERS.

The work of many colleagues who were supported by Brian is being reported in this Special Issue. His presence in the photonics community will never be forgotten.