

Obituaries

Richard E. Putman

Richard E. Putman, a Life Fellow of the Society, died on May 31, after a lengthy illness. He was 72 years old.

Putman was employed by General Electric Co. (GE) for 31 years, joining the company in 1941 in Schenectady, N.Y., as a technician with local radio and television stations. He served two years as a Navy radar instructor, then returned to GE as a supervisor of broadcast and international transmitters. In 1951 he became a broadcast engineer in charge of film camera engineering. He was responsible for design and development of monochrome and color cameras and broadcast studio equipment.

He later served as director of engineering of the Audio Visual Systems Division of Phillips Broadcast Equipment Corp. In 1976 he joined Angenieux Corp. of America and Computer Optics as marketing manager. He retired in 1987.

Putman was a former chairman of the Rochester Section of the Society of

Motion Picture and Television Engineers. He wrote more than 30 technical papers and chaired more than 20 industry committees.

Frank A. Valert

Frank A. Valert, an Active Member of the Society, died on September 20 of a heart attack at the age of 61. A native of Czechoslovakia, Valert was professor emeritus in the Department of Film and Television at UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television. He had retired from the university last June.

Prior to joining UCLA in 1975 as a lecturer in film and television photography, Valert was director of numerous feature films, documentaries, and telefilms shot in Czechoslovakia and Canada. In 1982 he was promoted to the rank of full professor, specializing in film and television directing and cinematography.

His films *Prague*, *Mother of Cities*, and *Golden Dream* were honored at the Brussel's World Fair in 1958. He received an award for outstanding photography on

the feature film *June Days* in 1962. His contribution to college cinematography was recognized with a second trophy from the American Society of Cinematographers in 1978. He was honored with life membership in the Czechoslovak Union of Theater and Film Artists in recognition of his artistic and professional work in film.

In 1988 he was awarded a Fulbright grant to lecture in cinematography at his alma mater, the Film Academy of Prague. Most recently Valert worked as a film and cinematography consultant providing professional and technical services to individual clients as well as commercial, non-profit, and government organizations.

Valert is survived by his wife Mia, son Peter, and sisters Maria and Ludmila.

Vladimir P. Prokchorov, an Active Member of the Society and the SMPTE Russian Section Chairman, is dead at the age of 48. A deputy director at the Cinema and Photo Research Institute (NIKFI) in Moscow, Prokchorov had been a member of the Society since 1990.

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