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Obituaries

John Pytlak

The Society is saddened to announce that John Pytlak, SMPTE Rochester Section member and Fellow, passed away on Friday, August 17, 2007, after a long battle with cancer. He was 59 years old.

Pytlak was former senior technical specialist at Eastman Kodak Co. He joined Kodak in 1970 at the age of 22 and spent his entire career there, working on motion picture product development and customer technical service. He was an active member of the Rochester Section and of the Society nationally, through his standards work in the SMPTE P3 Projection Technology Committee and ISO/TC36. He was the inventor of the LAD—Laboratory Aim Density system for film duplication control, for which he received an Academy Award in 2001, and the PTR—Particle Transfer Roller for film cleaning. In 2003, along with Kodak, he received the EPA Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award for his development of the PTR. In recent years, Pytlak was the “Voice of Kodak” on many internet discussion groups for motion picture technologies, where he provided numerous in-depth replies to correspondents’ technical questions. He will be sorely missed, worldwide.

Royce L. Pointer

Royce L. Pointer passed away on August 20, 2007 at his home in Palm Desert, CA. Pointer, a SMPTE Life Fellow, was 87 years old.

Pointer, worked as director of broadcast engineering for American Broadcasting Co. (ABC) for 37 years, until his retirement in 1985. Before ABC he worked as a design engineer with RCA in Camden, NJ, where he designed the first all solid-state TV studio, for ABC’s Washington News Bureau.

During his career, Pointer was involved in SMPTE committee work, both at the conference and local levels. He also served on NAB engineering and conference committees and wrote several papers, which were published in the IEEE Transactions on Broadcasting.

Erratum

In the July/August 2007 issue, “Photographing a War: World War II,” by Tom Hope, p. 294, column 2, middle photo, the caption was incorrect. The caption should read: May 1945. After the German surrender, Americans and Russians meet U.S. Lt. Gen. William Simpson, commander of the 9th U.S. Army, decorates Russian General of Russia’s 33rd Army with the Legion of Merit.