



## Obituary

### Edward P. Hobson II

**It is with deep sadness and regret that the Society announces the untimely passing of SMPTE Past President Edward P. Hobson, who lost his battle with cancer on Monday, January 28, 2008. He was 59 years old.**

Born on June 2, 1948 in Trenton, NJ, Ed started his broadcasting career with radio engineering and production projects in high school and then later in college. He received a BS degree in electrical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1971 and began a professional career that spanned over 35 years. Early in his career, Ed worked at Capital Cities Broadcasting, Knight Ridder's WTEN TV in Albany, and the General Electric WRGB in Schenectady, NY.

Ed joined the Grass Valley Group in 1980, working in the New York Field office. From 1988 to 1990 as a sales manager in Chineham, U.K., he established and managed the Grass Valley Group's United Kingdom direct sales force and traveled extensively throughout Europe, managing various international distributor relationships. Ed returned to the U.S. in 1990 to work as a marketing manager at Grass Valley, based in California, where he led marketing teams in the development of various products in the Production Systems Division.

In 1993, Ed left Grass Valley and briefly served as vice president at National TeleConsultants, an internationally recognized engineering and design firm, based in Glendale, CA. He later joined Graham-Patten Systems in 1994, where he served as vice president of marketing and sales. He also held positions at Sony Broadcast and Professional Services, before he co-founded Omneon Video Networks, an integrated networking and storage infrastructure firm for television and new media, in 1998. In 2002, he returned to National TeleConsultants, where he had since served as vice president.

Ed joined SMPTE in 1984 and for over 20 years, he served the Society in numerous capacities, including Conference Vice President (1992-1997), Governor (1991-1992), Secretary/Treasurer (1999-2000), Editorial Vice President (2001-2004), and President (2005-2006).

A SMPTE Fellow since 1994, Ed was co-founder of the SMPTE Sacramento Section and was devoted to strengthening and expanding the Society through education, standards activities, and as a worldwide leader in the television and motion picture industries. He was a main organizer and co-chair of the SMPTE-sponsored and produced, Digital Cinema Summit at NAB, which is now in its 7th consecutive year. In attempting to expand SMPTE's international reach, Ed was also one of the architects of the renewed collaboration between SMPTE and the BKSTS in April 2005. Ed served as a voting member of the Technical Emmy committee of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. In 2006, he was awarded Fellowship in the BKSTS. He was also the SMPTE Representative and member of the IBC Conference Committee and produced the IBC Content Production Day in 2006.

Ed is survived by his wife Judy, his parents Edward and Eleanor Hobson, and many other family and friends. He will be sorely missed.

Contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)) or Hospice of the Foothills ([www.hof.org](http://www.hof.org)) in Ed's name.