



Professional Obituary for John Robert Owen

By Gene Batey, friend and SMPTE colleague

We are sad to report the news that our good friend, associate, and Chairman of both the SBE Chapter 52 of Central Ohio, and the SMPTE Ohio Section, John R. Owen, has passed away on October 17th! John's professional broadcast industry career spans nearly six decades including participating in a diversified number of TV and Radio broadcast industry innovations! Beginning first with his

active-duty service in the US Air Force working on special innovated electrical engineering projects, then onto various long civilian careers with firms such as the Taft Broadcasting Company, eventually becoming a Senior TV broadcast engineer working on special infrastructure modifications at various Taft owned TV, Radio, and production plants, around the USA. After Taft he went onto the field of broadcast engineering infrastructure architecture with the prestigious firm, The Austin Company. While there he consulted on various unique architectural engineering plant projects at firms such as at NBC's color studios in Burbank CA. expanding and modifying several of their stages, and at the Lucas Film motion picture production company's special effects lot in San Raphael CA. to name a few. From the Austin Company he went onto the Dispatch Broadcast Company in Columbus where he participated as senior engineer in their pioneering TV Broadcast achievement in adding a secondary new digital (ATSC 1.0) transmission standard channel at WBNS Television one of the first integrated digital/HDTV/legacy NTSC broadcast plants on the air in 1998! John then continued his broadcast engineering consulting career assisting various TV stations around the nation for the next two years in implementing the FCC ordered national 2GHz BAS relocation project involving ENG mobile transmission frequency reassignments.

In recent years he formed the Q Communications engineering firm, where he consulted and assisted various TV station operators all over the USA in completion of their broadcast frequency channels "Repack" projects. For more Obituary details log onto: www.wallacethompsonfuneralhomes.com where you can also send messages of condolences for the comfort of his family! A memorial service is planned for a later date.

Family Obituary for John Robert Owen

John Robert Owen, 79 years of age, of Peebles, Ohio, passed away on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at the Adams County Regional Medical Center, in Seaman, Ohio. John was born on May 21, 1945, in Phoenix, Arizona, the son of the late Robert and Mary (Lowe) Owen. After serving his country in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam conflict, John worked as a broadcast engineer. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Masonic Lodge in Columbus, Ohio, as well as the National Rifle Association. He was also a member of Valley of Columbus Sunrise Valley Lodge 783, the Scottish Right 32nd Degree Masons, and the Free and Accepted Masons of Morrow Ohio Lodge 265. He belonged to the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) and he served as president of the Ohio Chapter 52 of the Society of Broadcast Engineers.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his brother, Robert K Owen. He is survived by his wife, Ann Wingert Owen, and his three daughters, Janel (Nick) Hartmann, of Morrow, Ohio; Kris (Jerry) Garrett, of Sardinia; and Kara (Dave) Varwig, of Lebanon, Ohio. John will be missed by his four grandchildren. John's family is planning a memorial service for a later date.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home. Please visit us at www.wallacethompsonfuneralhomes.com to leave words of comfort for the family in our online guest book.



May 30, 2019. John at his favorite work, regaling friends over a hardy meal. Most of broadcasting's problems were solved at such meals.

September 19, 2017 at the OAB Annual Conference. John with Gene Batey.



March 24, 2016 at Mills-James meeting.

May 28, 2015 at WBNS meeting with Tim Anderson of Gates Air.





February 26, 2014 WBNS meeting hosted by Pat Ingram, John O., Dolby Labs representative Ken Hunold, and Gene Batey.

March 23, 2012 at Joint Meeting of three SBE chapters at Harris Cincinnati facility. John O. with long time SBE Chapter 52 Vice Chairman John McKinley. The photographer will never forget the occasion as he developed a full blown retinal detachment with a one eye 140 mile drive home.



March 20, 2008 at URS Architects with Don Archiabile.



March 15, 2007 meeting at Industrial Video. John is pictured with his late brother Robert “Rob” K Owen. Rob hosted our chapter for many meetings at Industrial Video for which we are most appreciative.

QComm provided late in career excitement with aeronautical and drone craft. Co founded by John and Tony zum Mallen. The company provided drone tower inspection and aircraft field signal strength measurement services, plus lots of paperwork.



Established in 2006, QComm has provided negotiation, engineering, project management, and installation services to 69 TV stations as part of the 2GHz relocation project, transitioning the stations ENG capabilities from analog to digital operations. Prior to establishing QComm Tony zumMallen and his business partner, John Owen, both served on the Sprint/Nextel 2GHZ team to relocate the stations. Tony and John established QComm to work with the broadcasters to ensure that the stations maximized the benefits of the Sprint/Nextel 2GHZ deal as per the FCC requirements.

REPACK - continuing in the same vein in helping the broadcasters, QCOMM, has been tracking the Repack all along and has been instrumental in participating in the final Repack rules and have now repacked over 75 transmitters from initial 399 and evaluation to Installation and FCC true-up.

Photographs by Ralph Hoffman, SBE