



Ralph E. Cousino  
1932 – 2007

**R**alph Emmett Cousino, AES fellow, died on April 20, at St. Rose Siena Hospital in Nevada. He was 74 years old. A retired engineer, he lived in Henderson, Nevada. He was born in 1932 in St. Louis, Missouri, and lived in Toledo, Ohio, where he attended school and graduated from The University of Toledo in 1954 with a degree in electrical engineering. He joined ROTC at his university and then served in the U.S. Army and attained the rank of first lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps.

He married Carolyn Steinhauer in 1954. They had two sons, Brent of Sylvania, Ohio, and Craig of Maumee, Ohio. In 1967 Cousino married Betty Zeigler Tyson in Toledo and had a daughter, Suzanne Whitaker of New Orleans.

Cousino joined his father at Cousino Audio-Visual Education, which was later acquired by Orrtonics, Inc., a division of Champion Spark Plug Company. He held several patents and made many contributions to the field of magnetic tape and electronics, including development of the first 8-track duplicating system; design of cartridge tape loading equipment; and the first successful magnetic tape lubrication for 8-track tapes. This patented lubrication process was

licensed to the entire industry.

Cousino had a quality that was unique among creative scientific professionals. It was his ability to relate the theoretically possible in the laboratory to practical application in the factory or usefulness in the market. This, along with the ability to lead people and earn their respect, accounted for his success.

In 1970 he joined Capitol Records, a division of EMI Music in Hollywood, California, and held several positions of increasing responsibility ultimately becoming vice president, technology, EMI Worldwide. He produced numerous technical papers and spoke at conferences worldwide on technological advances in the music industry. He led negotiations for both EMI and the recording industry with Japan, Germany, Holland, and India, among others, for the advancement of music technologies.

As a capstone to his career, Cousino was responsible for the complex technical aspects of the production of Frank Sinatra's *Duets* album. This included coordinating live studio recordings in Hollywood, New York, and London.

He was a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, RIAA, IEEE, EIA Standards, TMA, and was recognized with awards for his many contributions to the communications field.

A memorial service was held April 22 at the St. Rose Siena chapel for family and friends. The family requests any memorials be sent to the Hope Out of Crisis Campaign, Sunshine Foundation, Inc., 7223 Maumee-Western Rd., Maumee, Ohio 43537.

He is survived by his wife Betty, sister Carol C. Metcalfe, sons Brent and Craig, daughter Suzanne Whitaker, stepchildren Kristina Craig, Ivan, Terry, and Timothy Tyson as well as nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Betty Cousino  
Brent Cousino and  
Suzanne Whitaker