
In Memoriam

Hugh Silas Allen Jr. 1917-2011



Hugh was born in Texarkana, Texas on October 15, 1917. He was the eldest son of Hugh and Teresa Allen, with his brother John five years his junior. The family moved about and finally settled in San Francisco where Hugh attended Galileo High School. Following graduation from high school, Hugh attended Berkley and graduated with a B.S. in engineering. When World War II broke out, Hugh enlisted in the navy and was sent to officers' training school, as well as further training at Bowdein and other well-known engineering colleges prior to becoming a radio communications instructor during the war. He

served for more than three years including time in the Philippines, attaining the rank of lieutenant.

Hugh met and married his first wife in San Francisco, but the marriage became a casualty of the war and they were divorced after a short time. After Hugh left the service, he reestablished his career in radio and met and married Abigail Allen from Panama. They moved to New York City where Hugh worked in radio at the United Nations, where he began his career in audio. While living in New York, he joined the Pioneer Broadcasters Club and later the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters in Los Angeles, continuing his membership into his 90s.

Following his employment at the UN, Hugh joined Gotham Audio, representing a few well-known manufacturers in the audio industry such as Neumann and EMT products to name a couple. After a few years headquartered in New York, he was offered the vice president of West Coast operations and moved to Los Angeles. Hugh was very active in the Audio Engineering Society. He was honored with a fellowship in 1971, was executive vice president in 1972, and president of the AES in 1973. He also was honored with a Citation in 1975, the Bronze Medal in 1976, and Honorary Member in 1982. Hugh was an avid ham radio operator and was a member and officer in several ham clubs into his eighties.

After Gail died, Hugh, at 75 years of age, met and married Elvira Tiexeira. After 12

years of marriage Elvira died and her daughter Lenore Sussman became his companion, caregiver, and the daughter who really cared for him. I have often seen her tremendous caring, as I have been a guest at many of Hugh's birthday dinners. Our friendship has extended for better than 40 years. He was a gentleman with a deep regard for his customers and his many friends. His customers often remarked of his interest in their well being. Hugh had an interest in everything, from musical instruments to ham radio to gourmet foods and cooking to home improvement projects and professional organizations and to just plain socializing.

Hugh passed from us on January 11 after saying his goodbyes to all in the room. It has been my privilege to know him and to have been his friend.

Dick Burden
