



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

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... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

John F.X. Browne

1935 - 2012

The engineering community lost a one of its most qualified and well-liked members this past week. On Sunday, March 11th, John F.X. Browne succumbed to cancer at Bloomfield Hills, MI. He was 76.

Browne was active in the broadcast and communications fields for over forty-five years, founding John F.X. Browne and Associates in 1966.



John F.X. Browne
December 5, 1935 – March 11, 2012

John was born the eldest son of John and Marie Mulcahy Browne in Long Island, NY on December 5, 1935. After high school, he attended the University of Detroit College of Engineering and Science, where he received Bachelors of Science degrees in Physics and Mathematics.

After school, John began his career as a professional engineer, starting the consulting firm John F.X. Browne & Associates in Bloomfield Hills, MI. He was recognized before the Federal Communications Commission as an expert radio engineer, and accepted from local to federal judicial proceedings as an Expert Witness.

Over the years, in addition to his engineering firm, John became very active in many areas of broadcast and communications engineering, and served both on a state and national level as a member or associate member in a number of organizations, including:

- Association of Federal Communications Consulting Engineers (AFCCE) (two separate terms as President, and recently chairman of the committee on Advanced Television Systems (DTV)).
- Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) (chairman of Ethical Practices Committee and
- Michigan Association of Broadcasters (Engineering Committee)

- National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) (member of National Board of Ethical Review).
- National Radio Systems Committee (NRSC)
- Advanced Television Systems Committee Task Force (ATSC)
- Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) (Five terms on Board of Governors and, most recently, on the Board of Directors for the SMPTE Journal).
- Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE)
- Broadcast Pioneers.
- Associate member of the Federal Communications Bar Association
- Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO).

John was also a prolific writer and lecturer. He contributed to chapters in *The NAB Engineering Handbook* and the *Reference Data for Radio Engineers (7th and 8th editions)*. His work was published in several trade publications and he presented materials at international and national conferences of the SMPTE, the IEEE, and the National Association of Broadcasters.

John received many awards, including being made a Fellow of the Society of Motion Picture & Television Engineers in 1978. In 1988 he was the second person inducted into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame. In 1988, he was selected as the Outstanding Engineer in Private Practice by the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers. And, in February 2001 he was made the second recipient of the prestigious Carl E. Lee Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

In addition, John was active in local civic organizations. He is warmly remembered for his generosity and wit.

John was married to Kay Mullen Browne for 32 years, and was step-father to her six children, and 12 grand children.

[Return to The BDR Menu](#)