

Memorial

In memory of Robert Gordon Babb II

Colleagues will be saddened to learn of the death of Robbie Babb, one of the founding editors of the Journal of *Scientific Programming*.

Robbie died from cancer in November 2007.

It was Robbie who had the idea for the Journal of *Scientific Programming* and provided the enthusiasm and guidance for its launch 17 years ago in 1991. It was from his work in the field of scientific computing that he realised there was a gap in the literature for publications in the area. He asked me to join him as joint Editor in Chief and it was a pleasure and fun to work with him over the years. It was Robbie who persuaded John Wiley to publish the new Journal and to promote it in its early years. When he left academia to join TRW he felt he did not have the time to devote to the Journal, so he invited Boleslaw to become the other Editor in Chief, but always kept a keen interest and watch over his creation. Boleslaw has carried out this role of Editor with the same enthusiasm as Robbie.

Robbie went to school at NMSU, originally being interested in astrophysics, but later moving into computer science. He ended up as a software engineer at Boeing in Seattle, and in 1982, became one the first

faculty members in the new computer science and engineering program being started at Oregon Graduate Center in Beaverton. In the early 1990s, he left for University of Denver. He taught there until 1999 when he joined TRW/DSO as Deputy Chief Technologist.

In 1987, Robbie edited a book which had a profound influence on scientific computing, namely, *Programming Parallel Processors* (Addison-Wesley) with chapters written by his students describing our experiences in getting a very simple numerical integration program running on several different parallel computers: Alliant FX/8, BBN Butterfly, Cray X-MP, FPS T Series, IBM 3090, Intel iPSC, Loral Dataflo 100 and Sequent Balance. For some of these machines (e.g. Loral and FPS), this access and information was only made available through Robbie's special effort and connections.

His open personality and networking skills helped to make him widely known in the field and he will be greatly missed.

Ron Perrott
Editor in Chief
Journal of Scientific Programming