

REMEMBERING FREDERICK P. BROOKS, JR. (1931–2022)

Pioneering computer scientist Frederick P. Brooks, Jr. died November 17, 2022, at his home in Chapel Hill, NC, USA.

Dr. Brooks is widely known as the author of *The Mythical Man Month: Essays on Software Engineering*. In it, Brooks clearly describes the lessons he learned while managing the development of IBM OS/360. After leaving IBM in 1964, he founded the Computer Science department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As chair for 20 years, he led the department to international prominence in computer graphics.

Brooks' mantra was that *computer scientists are toolsmiths*: they build tools others use to solve their own

hard problems. For example, UNC-Chapel Hill computer scientists built systems for displaying and manipulating molecular models for protein chemists and nanoscale structures for material scientists. Dr. Brooks cared deeply about the relationship between people and computers. His research group extensively studied system characteristics, such as latency to understand their impact on the effectiveness of virtual reality systems.

Brooks received dozens of major awards, including the ACM A.M. Turing Award, the IEEE VGTC Virtual Reality Career award, and membership in the SIGGRAPH Academy and the IEEE VGTC Virtual Reality Academy.