

Howard Gene Sachs

February 9, 1934 - May 2, 2023

Howard Sachs was an active member of the Hot Chips community. He served on the conference program committee multiple times and on the conference steering committee for many years. Those of us who were his friends and colleagues are expressing our appreciation for his contributions to Hot Chips and to the computer and electronics industries.

Howard Sachs started as an ordinary engineer, and eventually moved into senior management positions in several companies, specializing in computer hardware and software systems. In addition, he personally worked on microprocessor architectures, and had nineteen patents issued relating to microprocessor cache memories, VLIW architectures, and computer design methodologies. He was the principal architect of the CLIPPER microprocessor, developed at Fairchild Semiconductor and then at Intergraph Corporation.

Most recently, in 2001 Mr. Sachs founded Telairity Semiconductor and was the President & CEO until 2009, when he retired. The company targeted the emerging H.264 video compression market and developed products to serve the professional compression market. The company gained important customers such as KTLA in Los Angeles. Over his career, Howard has held a variety of additional senior management positions at companies such as Fujitsu Microelectronics, as the General Manager for the Microprocessor Division and the ASIC Division, Executive Vice President of Engineering for Intergraph Corporation, Vice President and General Manager for microprocessor development at the R&D Laboratories for Fairchild Semiconductor, Vice President of Engineering for Cray Laboratories, Vice President of Engineering for Sun Microsystems and Director of Engineering for National Semiconductor. Howard Sachs has been on the following boards: Telairity Semiconductor, the Virtual Socket Interface Alliance, Integrated Silicon Systems and the Technical Advisory Board for Dynachip Corp. He was also on the IEEE editorial board for the Spectrum magazine.

Howard had a BSE from Los Angeles State College in 1961 and an MSEE from the University of Southern California in 1971. He was married to Allyn Gail Sachs (who died in 2020) and is survived by his children Wendy and Allan and grandchildren Jessika Baker and Bradley Baker. After living in the Bay Area, he moved to San Diego in 2009, where he had fun racing his sailboat and his Porsche.

And (quoted without permission): John Hennessy: "he was a terrific engineer!", and Jim Meadlock (formerly president of Intergraph Corporation): "Howard was one of the great designers of our generation."

