



The
Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

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... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

George Marti

1920 – 2015

If there was anyone whose name was synonymous with broadcast gear, it would have to be George Marti. Anyone who did a remote broadcast from the 1950s through the 2000s instantly know what was meant by “take the Marti to the site.” Even beyond that, Marti was known as someone who felt it important to “give back.”

George Marti passed away at the age of 95.



Courtesy: tab.org

George Marti
1920 – December 14, 2015

A Texas boy, George Marti graduated from Central High School in Fort Worth at the age of 16 and then attended technical school for nine months. He received his radiotelephone First Class and Amateur Radio licenses just prior to his 17th birthday (his call letters: W5GLJ).

After six months as an apprentice, Marti was a full-time engineer at KTAT and KFJZ-FM in Ft. Worth.

In 1942, Marti began a close to four-year stint in the Marines. After only two days of boot camp he was assigned to the Navy's first Radar School as a Staff Sergeant. Two years later he met and married his wife, Jo Chambers. They were married for 61 years, until Jo's death. (Marti did re-marry. He and Margaret were married in 2004.)

After a four year career in the Marines, he returned to broadcasting at KFJZ-FM, but soon (April 1947) he and his wife put KCLE, Cleburne TX on the air, having designed and built KCLE's 250-Watt transmitter and the control room audio console in his mother living room.

Several other stations followed (KCLE-FM Cleburne in 1949, KKJO, St. Joseph, MO in 1953), with Marti eventually having an interest more than a dozen stations.

As a station owner, Marti saw the need for a new way to get audio back to the studio. Marti Electronics was started in 1960 to manufacture remote broadcast gear, among other things. Marti operated the company out of Cleburne until 1994, when he sold it to Broadcast Electronics. His first Remote Pick-Up Unit (RPU) is now in the Smithsonian collection in Washington, DC.

Always active in working to help the community, Marti served six terms as Mayor of Cleburne Texas, supported local businesses, and started the [Marti Foundation](#), which offers scholarships to students in Johnson County, TX. Over the years Marti helped more than 300 students to get their college degrees. Also, he was involved in cattle ranching and helped save the local Bank of Cleburne from collapse.

Over the years, Marti was honored by many groups, including the 1991 NAB Lifetime Engineering Achievement Award and the Texas Association of Broadcasters' Pioneer Broadcaster of the Year Award. In 2002 he was inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame and named Broadcaster of the Year by the TAB in 2010. Hometown newspaper *Cleburne Times-Review* named him Man of the Year in 2010.

In addition to his wife, Marti leaves behind son, Wes Marti; and daughters Ann Schmidt, Pamela Lilly and Michelle Marti.

Return to The BDR Menu