

Memorial Recognition

Established in 2002, the Memorial Recognition serves as a posthumous tribute to a creative and devoted physician, research scientist, or other member or nonmember who has contributed to the field of ultrasound in medicine. Honorees are announced at the Annual Meeting.

Lloyd Eugene (L.E.) Schnitzer, BA, RT, RDMS, RDCS, RVT

Lloyd Eugene (better known as L.E.) Schnitzer saw the potential in ultrasound during his collegiate schooling, and he worked hard to help establish it as a needed medical specialty from the very beginning of his career.

In the same year as he received the Outstanding Student Award from the University of Oklahoma School of Radiologic Technology (1969), Mr Schnitzer also joined the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine and was a cofounder of the American Society of Ultrasound Technical Specialists [ASUTS], now known as SDMS (Society for Diagnostic Medical Sonography).

That same year, together with Joan P. Baker, and in accordance with Marilyn Ball, Margaret Byrne, James Dennon, and Raylene Husak, Mr Schnitzer presented the AIUM Board of Governors with a letter proposing the formation of a separate professional society for ultrasound technical specialists, which was approved. He was then elected as president-elect (Joan became president), and in 1971, wrote the American Society of Ultrasound Technical Specialists (ASUTS) bylaws and constitution. He did not become ASUTS president, however, as a result of taking the position of Director of Education for a commercial company. He resigned from his ASUTS office in accordance with the bylaws he had written, which prohibited a commercial technical specialist from holding an ASUTS office.

Although he gave up his chance to be ASUTS president, Mr Schnitzer was not done yet helping to further the field of ultrasound. In 1973, he was the first sonographer to ever record a fetal heart on film, which he presented as “Fetal Echocardiography” at the AIUM Convention in, to his surprise, a standing-room-only crowd—only 13 ultrasound specialists were present but numerous physicians were interested as well. Although Mr Schnitzer obtained the film and presented it himself, once it was published in *Obstetrics and Gynecology* in June 1974, he was listed as third author, rather than first, simply because he was a sonographer. At that time, sonographers were generally not given enough credit for their work.

That didn’t stop him from doing his best, however. In 1976, Mr Schnitzer co-founded the Iowa Society of Ultrasound and, in 1979, became chairman of the ARDMS (American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography), all while serving as Director of the Department of Ultrasound at Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center (1974–2002). Mr Schnitzer then became a sonographer at Banner Del Webb Hospital in Sun City West, Arizona, before retiring in 2012.

The ultrasound pioneer, L. E. Schnitzer, is survived by his daughter, Brianne and her husband, Matt, and their children, Corinne, Chase, Caylee, and Matthew; his son, Guy, and his wife Theresa; his younger sister, Barbara, and her 4 children; and grandchildren.

