

# M I C R O P R O C E S S O R

www.MPRonline.com

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO MICROPROCESSOR HARDWARE

## VLIW PIONEER BOB RAU DIES

By Tom R. Halfhill {12/30/02-04}

Dr. Bob Rau, Hewlett-Packard Fellow, pioneer of VLIW architectures, and recipient of numerous awards, died of cancer at his home in Los Altos, California, on December 10. He was 51. Before joining HP in 1989, Rau cofounded Cydrome in 1984 and was chief architect

of the Cydra-5 computer, one of the first VLIW systems. Rau and several engineers from Cydrome and its chief competitor Multiflow later went to HP and Intel, where they helped create the IA-64 EPIC architecture and Itanium processor. (See MPR 2/14/94-05, "VLIW: The Wave of the Future?")

Rau's most recent position at HP Labs was director of the Compiler and Architecture Research program, which developed the Elcor research compiler for EPIC. Since 1995, Rau had been working on HP Lab's PICO (Program In, Chip Out) project. The goal of PICO is to automatically generate



PHOTO COURTESY OF HP

an optimized processor and compiler for embedded applications.

Rau recently received the Eckert-Mauchly Award from the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and the IEEE Computer Society and had been named an ACM Fellow. He was also an IEEE Fellow, a consulting professor at Stanford University, and an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign). He held 15 patents and two advanced degrees in electrical engineering from Stanford. Rau received his bachelor of technology degree from the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras, India. ♦

To subscribe to Microprocessor Report, phone 480.609.4551 or visit [www.MDRonline.com](http://www.MDRonline.com)