The Advertising Federation of Greater Hampton Roads honored Harrol A. Brauer, Jr., former vice president of WVEC-TV and WVEC Radio, with its 35th Silver Medal Award in 1998.

One of the area’s media pioneers, Brauer participated on the founding of WVEC Radio in 1948 and WVEC-TV in 1953, serving as the first sales manager for the stations. He worked tirelessly to establish and promote the importance of broadcast media as a vital component of advertising campaigns in Hampton Roads.

Active in professional organizations throughout his life, Brauer served on the Virginia Public Telecommunications Board as vice chairman from 1973-84 and chairman in 1985. He also was a member and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hampton Roads Educational Telecommunications Board (WHRO) from 1965-1970.

He is widely acknowledged for his leading role in securing the designation of Hampton Roads as a single Metropolitan Statistical Area in 1980. Consolidating the Peninsula and Southside Hampton Roads in this vital economic classification moved the region up to the 27th MSA in the nation at that time.

As a result of Brauer’s efforts, national media expenditures in the Hampton Roads region increased, as did national recognition of our area as a dynamic metropolitan market.

Brauer played an active part in the civic, cultural and educational affairs of the Peninsula region. In 1985, he was co-chair – with his wife Elizabeth Ann – of the 375th Anniversary Committee of the City of Hampton. He was a recipient of the Thomas P. Chisman Memorial Medal from the Virginia Air and Space Center in Hampton. He also served the first Rector of the Board of Visitors for Christopher Newport University, where he received an honorary doctorate of laws degree.

Harrol A. Brauer, Jr. died on June 6, 2008.