



**Robert L. Dillman**

**January 23, 1939 - June 11, 2009**

Robert Lee Dillman passed away at the age of 70, due to leukemia on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at his home in Staunton, VA.

Dillman was born in Huron, SD and concluded his South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD) education in 1957. At SDSD Dillman was better known as Bobb. He was all-around student who was very active in sports during his high school years, participating in football, basketball and track.

Dillman was a 1962 graduate of Gallaudet University and he participated in the 1961 World Games for the Deaf, receiving a silver medal for diving. He participated actively in the Block "G" Club and the Gallaudet Athletic Association during his years as a student at Gallaudet. He had many interests, which included working on vintage sports cars, breeding dogs and flying radio-controlled airplanes. He taught American Sign Language at Gallaudet University for five years. Prior to retiring, he worked as a printer.

Dillman also quarterbacked the Gallaudet football teams in the late '50s and early '60s. And he won an interesting distinction - the only Gallaudet starting QB to come from a 6-man school. In 6-man football quarterbacks cannot hand off the ball; they must pitch out the ball. It was quite an adjustment for Bobby but by the time he was a junior, he was the best hand off man among several Gallaudet quarterbacks on the roster.

He was preceded in death by his first wife of 37 years, Kitty McCarter Dillman. His beloved wife, Janice Couch Dillman, two daughters, two sons, two grandsons, two brothers, and a sister survived him. One of his brothers, Dana of St. Cloud, MN is also deaf. Dana graduated from SDSD in 1952.

On June 17, 2000 Dillman was inducted into the South Dakota Association of the Deaf Hall of Fame in the sports category.

Memorial services celebrating his life was conducted at Noon, Friday, July 10, 2009 in the Henry Funeral Home Chapel by the Rev. Hollis Gregory Dodge.