



Willard Schumack

July 4, 1943 – January 5, 2013

With unexpected suddenness death has come among the Deaf Community. Willard Schumack has silently closed the door of life and departed us on Saturday, January 5th at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. The shock of his death is visibly and profoundly felt by his family and those whom he had daily contact. All of us in the Deaf Community have suffered a heavy loss in his death.

All of Willard's schooling took place at the SD School for the Deaf (SDSD). He graduated in 1963. During his high school years at SDSD he actively participated in varsity football, basketball and track. He was known to be a fearless running back in football. He played both offense and defense. He was named All-Conference in football and basketball during his junior year.

After high school Willard continued with his education at South Dakota State where he earned a degree in printing. He married Joanne McRoberts of Minnesota on Oct. 9th, 1965. They settled in Vermillion, SD where Willard worked for a private printing company for 2 years, then moved to Sioux Falls. Willard worked for the Argus leader, John Morrell, and the Sioux Falls School District while living in Sioux Falls.

Willard and Jo raised four daughters, Debbie, Dawn, Marcia and Michelle (Mikkie). Additionally, they were blessed with nine grand children and four great grand children.

Willard had three loves of his life, family, softball and snowmobiling. He loved to spend time with his children and grandchildren. He was best known for his 40 years as an ASA umpire. He umpired for Youth, Fast and Slow pitch softball. He umpired over 45 National Tournaments and received many honorary awards. He has been elected into several Hall of Fames in South Dakota, Maryland and Kentucky. He was an avid snowmobiler. He was a member of the Sioux Falls Sno-Tracker Club. Many times he took yearly snowmobile trips to the Big Horn Mountains in Sheridan, WY.

Willard was an active member of the Sioux Falls Association of the Deaf (SFAD) and the South Dakota Association of the Deaf (SDAD) for many years. He held numerous officer positions, such as SFAD President, Vice-President and Treasurer and for the past year he served as director of the SDAD hall of Fame. He participated on SFAD softball and basketball teams. He earned three batting titles and was an all-star at 3rd base and left field while playing in the MAAD softball tournaments. He was a member of the MAAD Hall of Fame.

Funeral services for Willard were held at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Sioux Falls on Thursday, January 10th at 10:30 am. The family had a private burial service at the Hills of Rest Memorial Park in Sioux Falls.