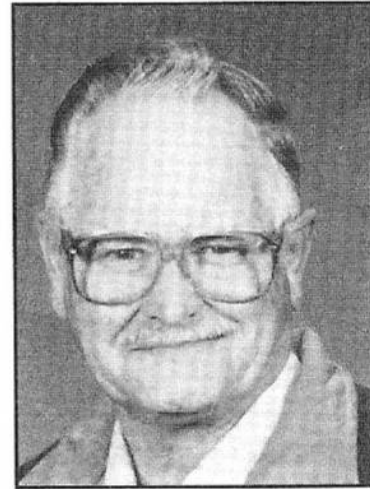


## KENNETH D. CZERNY

Born on January 9, 1931 and reared in Sioux Falls, Kenneth Czerny received his K-12 education at the South Dakota School for the Deaf. In high school, sports captured his attention and he was actively involved in this particular area practically all year, including the summer months during which he participated in age-appropriate sandlot fast-pitch softball leagues. His unique passion for sports would continue into the years after his graduation from SDSD in 1949.



Ken attended Gallaudet University's Preparatory Class for a year and decided to bypass a college career in favor of a 34-year employment at the John Morrell Meat Packing Plant in his hometown. Throughout these years, he utilized his first love – any and all forms of sports – to the maximum extent possible, initially as a player in the highly popular programs of the Midwest Athletic Association of the Deaf (MAAD) and eventually as one of the extraordinarily successful softball umpires in Sioux Falls and vicinity. He has also officiated in the sports of football, basketball, and volleyball and worked several national softball tournaments.

Performing for the Sioux Falls Association of the Deaf teams, Ken was particularly outstanding in basketball, softball, and volleyball. His teams were competitive in the Sioux Falls league activities as well as the regular and tournament games of the MAAD, thanks largely to his athleticism. He was inducted into the MAAD Hall of Fame in 1970 and the American Athletic Association of the Deaf (AAAD) Hall of Fame in 1988.

Most noteworthy, however, was his distinguished career in South Dakota as a fast-pitch and slow-pitch softball umpire which spanned over 20 years. His reputation and the demand for his services across the state were such that he was inducted into the South Dakota State Amateur Softball Association (SDSASA) Hall of Fame, the first deaf individual so honored until another SDSD product, Willard Schumack, came aboard.

The immaculate Kenneth Czerny legacy in South Dakota continues with the high quality work being performed by fellow deaf South Dakotans, Schumack, Tom Kober and Deb Kuglitsch.