

Willard Ray Schumack

Community Service



Born in Long Lake, SD on the 4th of July, Willard attended the South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD), graduating in 1963. Willard was an extremely hard and dedicated worker. He held positions as a printer and press operator with a printing company in Vermillion, the Argus leader in Sioux Falls and also with the Sioux Falls School District. In addition, he also worked at various positions at John Morrell's and also worked with Soukup Lawn Care & Snow Removal and later

with CSD's Lawn & Snow division.

When he wasn't working, Willard put in numerous volunteer hours helping with many SFAD, SDAD, and CSD construction and renovation projects. They varied from remodeling the old Sioux Falls Association of the Deaf (SFAD) Building on 6th Street and Lewis Avenue, the CSD/SDAD Building on Gateway Lane, the historic Simpson Building on the CSD campus (formerly the SDSD campus) and Camp Lakodia.

Willard was also known for serving in many different deaf organizations in various capacities within the Deaf Community. He served as President, Vice President, and Treasurer for SFAD the over the years. Whenever Sioux Falls hosted regional basketball and/or softball tournaments for the Midwest Athletic Association of the Deaf (MAAD), he normally served as the chairperson for the event or at least as a committee member. He also served as the South Dakota Association of the Deaf (SDAD) Vice President for four terms from 1979 – 1987. The SDAD Hall of Fame was a great passion of Willard's. He helped with its creation and enthusiastically served as its Chairperson for more than 20 years. It is alive and well today, serving as one of SDAD's most successful and popular programs, largely because of Willard.

Of course, one of Willard's greatest passions in his life (next to his wife, children and grandchildren) was officiating softball and baseball leagues and tournaments at all levels, including youth, mens and women's, both fast and slow pitch. He was a well respected and admired umpire for more than three decades and received countless awards, trophies and accolades from the American Softball Association and the Amateur Softball Association of America. He was inducted to the National ASA Hall of Fame in 1994 and was considered one of the best, most recognized softball officials in the nation.

He was not only known for his big smile but also for his huge heart, generosity and compassion, always thinking of and putting others before himself. He receives this award posthumously.