



# Richard Dick Chamberlain

March 18, 1942 – June 23, 2008

Richard Paul “Dick” Chamberlain, age 66, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, passed away at Avera McKennan Hospital on June 23, 2008.

Dick was born on March 18, 1942. Early in his life he was known by the surname Meyers. He later was adopted by Fern Chamberlain, a social worker in Pierre, South Dakota, and thereafter used the Chamberlain name.

As a young child, Dick attended St. John’s School for the Deaf in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he remained through the end of the second grade. Around 1950, he moved to Pierre, South Dakota, and entered the South Dakota School for the Deaf as a third-grade student. He later graduated from SDSD in 1962. During his school years, Dick was known as a quiet and reserved student. He participated in athletics, including football, basketball, and track, and enjoyed sketching and drawing as personal hobbies.

After completing his education at SDSD, Dick studied drafting at Denver Community College. He later worked for the South Dakota Department of Transportation in Pierre before eventually settling in Sioux Falls.

Dick had a lifelong interest in automobiles and especially enjoyed driving. Although naturally introverted, he maintained friendships and remained connected to the Deaf community throughout his life.

His early life also reflected the social and educational challenges faced by many deaf individuals of his generation. He was at times misunderstood by educators regarding his intellectual abilities, a judgment that may have been influenced by his quiet personality. Despite these obstacles, he completed his education and lived an independent adult life.

Funeral services were held at Trinity Ministry for the Deaf in Sioux Falls, with burial at Hills of Rest Memorial Park.



Intermediate Boys of School Year 1956-57

1957 SDSD Yearbook

Front row L to R: Richard Polzin, Larry Puthoff, Steven Crawford, Dennis Souhrada, Ricky Ahlgrim, and Tony Jackson.

Second row L to R: Joaquin Martin, Tommy Hay, Darrell Maag, Howard Gelling, Ernest Hoffman, Roland Hoppe, Robert Reppert, and Dale Lauseng.

Third row L to R: Roger Briggs, Norman White Shirt, Billy Anderson, Darrell White Eagle, Dick Chamberlain, Billy Kavanaugh, and Willard Schumack.

