

# Willard Ray Schumack

## July 4, 1942 – January 5, 2013

Willard Ray Schumack, 70, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, passed away unexpectedly on January 5, 2013, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Willard was born July 4, 1942, in Long Lake, South Dakota, to Edmund and Bertha Schumack. He attended the South Dakota School for the Deaf, graduating in 1963. An accomplished athlete, he participated in football, basketball, track, and cross-country, earning All-Conference honors in football and basketball during his junior year. He continued his education after high school, studying printing.



On October 9, 1965, Willard married Joanne Marie McRoberts. They settled in Vermillion, where he worked for a printing company, before moving to Sioux Falls. Together, they raised four daughters: Debbie, Dawn, Marcia, and Michelle.

A dedicated worker, Willard held printing and press operator positions with the Argus Leader and the Sioux Falls School District. He also worked at John Morrell, Soukup Lawn Care & Snow Removal, and CSD's Lawn & Snow division.

Willard devoted countless hours to the Deaf community. A member of the Sioux Falls Association of the Deaf since 1963, he served as president, vice president, and treasurer and helped organize regional athletic tournaments. He served four terms as vice president of the South Dakota Association of the Deaf from 1979 to 1987. He also helped establish the SDAD Hall of Fame and chaired the program for more than 20 years. His volunteer work included construction and renovation projects at SFAD, the CSD/SDAD building, the historic Simpson Building, and Camp Lakodia.



Softball was one of Willard's greatest passions. He played on SFAD basketball and softball teams, earned three batting titles, and received all-star recognition at third base and left field in Midwest Athletic Association of the Deaf tournaments. He became a member of the MAAD Hall of Fame.

During a nearly 40-year umpiring career, Willard officiated youth, fast-pitch, and slow-pitch softball, including more than 45 national tournaments. His work earned numerous awards and Hall of Fame honors. SDAD recognized him as a Hall of Fame inductee in 2004 and honored him posthumously for community service in 2016.

Above all, Willard loved his family and treasured time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was also an avid snowmobiler and longtime member of the Sioux Falls Sno-Trackers, enjoying trips to Wyoming's Bighorn Mountains. He will be remembered for his warm smile, generosity, compassion, and willingness to help others.

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Survivors include his wife, Joanne; daughters, Debbie Miller (Roy Flanders) of Crooks, Dawn Schumack and Marcia (Tim) Cadwell of Sioux Falls, and Michelle (Wyatt) Schelske of Kennebec; nine grandchildren, Liz (Curt) Stormo, Joseph Miller, Sara Cadwell (Marcus Taylor), Kyle Cadwell, Mitchell Cadwell, Hayden Schelske, Logan Schelske, Allison Schelske, and Morgan Schelske; and four great-grandchildren, Izak, Madison, Brayden, and Abigail.



He is also survived by his brothers, Jerry (Peggy) Schumack of Aberdeen and Curtis (Pam) Schumack of Groton; sister, Joan (Robert) Scheett of Anaconda, Montana; brother-in-law, Jerry (Carol) McRoberts of Rice Lake, Wisconsin; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, Lloyd Schumack.

Funeral services were held January 10, 2013, at St. Therese Catholic Church in Sioux Falls, with Father David Stevens officiating. A private family burial took place at Hills of Rest Memorial Park.

Pallbearers were Liz Stormo, Joseph Miller, Sara Cadwell, Kyle Cadwell, Mitchell Cadwell, Hayden Schelske, Logan Schelske, Allison Schelske, Morgan Schelske, Izak Stokes-Miller, Madison Stormo, Brayden Miller, and Abigail Taylor. ASA umpires served as honorary pallbearers.

