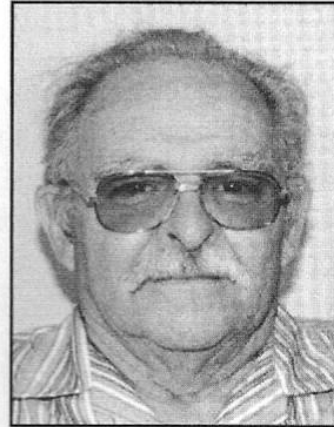


JERROLD A. BERKE

Jerrold A. Berke, Jr. is a classic example of a self-made man. His character and integrity are above reproach and he is often identified as a benchmark for others in the deaf community to measure up to. He fought his way up, slowly but surely, to become one of South Dakota's legendary public servants with a long record of achievement and success as an advocate, consultant, program developer, and leader.



Down through the years, he has been a source of advice and information to many Sioux Falls residents. He has established himself as an outstanding steadying influence at meetings whose knowledge of the parliamentary procedures, constitution and bylaws, legislative statutes, rules and regulations is considered second to none. He is generous with his time and experience in helping others, always able to take a firm grasp upon a situation and offer beneficial input into the matter at hand. His political savvy has done much for the state of South Dakota, especially its responsibility for the well-being of the deaf and hard of hearing population and its awareness of the needs and interests unique to deafness and hearing loss.

Born on June 7, 1931 in Britton, South Dakota to Roman and Florence Berke, Jerrold attended the Britton public school system until he was six years old when he lost his hearing through whopping cough. The family moved to Sioux Falls in 1942 in order to create a healthy home-school environment for his enrollment at the South Dakota School for the Deaf. Jerrold completed his SDS D education in 1950 and immediately embarked upon a 37-year employment at the John Morrell Meat Packing Plant in Sioux Falls, doubling for 15 years as a part-time SDS D dormitory counselor. He occasionally served as a special assistant for a period of time in the SDS D kitchen and as a substitute academic teacher. He is a wonderful role model for the young people and they benefited much from exposure to his special qualities as a person to be emulated.

Jerrold served 10 years as president of the South Dakota Association of the Deaf and as a board member for 45 years. He was largely responsible for the emergence of telecommunications services (TTY) in the area of Sioux Falls when the nationwide program originated in the early 1960s. He was an all-around athlete at SDS D and, upon graduation, competed with flying colors for the Sioux Falls Association of the Deaf teams. Many of his peers credited him for the establishment of a football program at SDS D which lasted for a brief yet successful period of time.

Jerrold and his gracious wife, Flo, have five children, fourteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren. They snowbird to Mesa, Arizona for the winter but always call their friends back home to find out what's happening. Home is where the heart is and they have definitely demonstrated their love for South Dakota.