John Joseph Schumacher

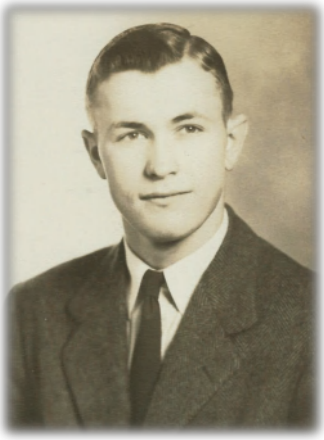
April 30, 1925 – April 18, 2006



John J. Schumacher, a 1945 graduate of the South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD) and 1950 graduate of Gallaudet College (University), entered into eternal life late Tuesday afternoon, April 18, 2006. He was 80 years old, just 12 days shy of his 81st birthday.

Schumacher, a native of Aberdeen, South Dakota, passed away at Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Fontana, California. He was residing with his wife, Nona, in Sun City, CA at the time of his death. Memorial service was held on May 3, at 11:00 am at the Miller-Jones Mortuary in Sun City.

Schumacher was best known as one of the greatest basketball players to ever play for SDSD. In fact he was one of the greatest athletes in the state of South Dakota during his high school years. He was a member and star of the 42-41 SDSD basketball team that ended up as runner-up in the District 18 Tournament and the 1944-1945 team that won three championships – the Minnehaha County, the Little Sioux Conference and the District 18. In addition to being a member of the SDSD basketball team, Schumacher was also a member of the SDSD track team that captured the 1945 Conf. championship.



After graduating from SDSD, Schumacher went on to Gallaudet College (now University) and received a Bachelor's degree. During his senior year at Gallaudet he was elected as the second president of the Student Body Government, serving the 1949-50 term of office.

He taught Graphic Arts at the Minnesota School for the Deaf (now known as the MN State Academy for the Deaf) and the South Dakota School for the Deaf, from which he retired. He worked for the Detroit News between the time he worked at MSAD and SDSD.



PHEASANTS WIN SDHSSAA DISTRICT TOURNEY
Rushmore Beacon March 1945 p. 3
Standing L to R: Raymond Ellis, Leslie Bierly, Nick LeFors, Coach A.J. Krohn, Stanley Johnson, Arvin Massey and Alvin Harold.
Sitting L to R: Everett Ruedebusch, John Buckmaster, Co-Captain Robert Lange, Co-Captain John Schumacher, James Sweeney and Blaine Slovey.

One of his pastimes was putting together puzzles, shellacking and making pictures of them.

Schumacher was greatly missed by his wife, Nona; daughter, Susan Ann Kater and her husband, Bruce; grandson, Andrew; and friends and relatives.

