



David Hugo Dedrick Inducted 2014 WHS Class of 1945

David passed away on January 22, 2010 following a lengthy illness. He was surrounded by his loving family and his presence and spirit will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Dave Dedrick was born to Sylvia (Marie) and Daniel Dedrick on March 29, 1928 in Marshalltown, Iowa. The family moved to Fort Dodge, Iowa and then to Sioux Falls, SD in 1935. He attended Longfellow School and Washington High School, working at KSOO/KELO radio during his junior and senior years, beginning his broadcasting career at the age of 15. Upon graduating in 1945, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps where he served 4 years and was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant. Returning to Sioux Falls, Dave enrolled at Augustana College and married the love of his life, MarJean Schuknecht, on December 2, 1949. After 18 months of college and during the Korean Conflict, Dave was recalled to active duty with the Marine Reserves, returning to Sioux Falls in Feb. of 1952.

When television first aired in South Dakota on May 19, 1953 he became the first announcer on KELO-TV, beginning of a 44-year career in the television industry. News, sports, weather, commercials and variety shows all filled his albums of memories. On March 7, 1955, Dave launched a whole new facet of television that focused on the children of the 4-state coverage area. For the next 42 years, Captain 11, played by Dave Dedrick, was host to 3 generations of children and appeared in about 180 towns and cities across the region. Captain 11 became the longest running host of a children's show in the history of television.

Other accomplishments include 17 years on morning radio, and 16 years of bowling shows that were televised for Sioux City, Iowa. He hosted more than 25 telethons, along with 44 years of weather shows. He became Huset's Speedway' first announcer and continued in that position for the track's first 17 years through 1975. Many knew Dave Dedrick as the "Voice of Huset's Speedway" and he was inducted into the Huset's Hall of Fame in 2003.

In 1989 he wrote and published "It Ain't All Cartoons", an autobiographical chronicle of his life.

Dave retired from broadcasting on December 30, 1996. He was inducted into the South Dakota Broadcasters Hall of Fame on April 18, 1997, and inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 1999. The Captain 11 set and other memorabilia is displayed in the State Historical Museum in Pierre. The national Weather Service presented him with a Special Service Award for 44 years of service to the people of KELO-LAND. He was inducted into the "Silver circle" by the National Academy of Arts and Sciences for "Lifetime Achievement". He was awarded the "Distinguished Service Award" by the Cosmopolitan Club. The Sioux Falls Catholic Diocese awarded Dave the "Bishop Dudley Excellence in Media" award on Sept. 17, 1998. His favorite award was the medallion he carried on his key chain citing 33 years of sobriety.

Grateful for having shared his life are his wife of 60 years, MarJean, son Dana (Sioux Falls), daughter Sunshine Dawn Cady (Terry) Sioux Falls, one granddaughter, Natasha (San Francisco), four grandsons, Ian (San Francisco), Eli (Sioux Falls), Travis Snyder (Sioux Falls), and Justin Snyder (Sioux Falls), sisters Jody Swenson of Sioux Falls, Dorothy Cady of Lennox, SD, one brother Dwain Dedrick, of Boulder, CO, numerous nephews, their wives and children. He was preceded in death by his parents, younger brother Bill, and son David Patrick Dedrick.

Dave Dedrick symbolized talent, integrity, honesty and principle through his efforts to better the lives of those around him, and in so doing, bringing creativity, grace and character to the people. From the thunderous applause of thousands, to a quiet conversation with a child, Dave Dedrick proved that he indeed possessed the Wisdom of Solomon and the Strength of Atlas.