



Telecommunications for the  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing

**TDI-L eNotes - March 31, 2008**

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**IN MEMORY: DR. JERALD M. JORDAN 1927 - 2008**



**Dr. Jerald M. Jordan**

**1927 - 2008**

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network**

**Bids Farewell to Jerald M. Jordan**

**Dr. Jerald M. Jordan**, or "J" as many of us affectionately call him, was one of the charter members of the Consumer Action Network, now called the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network (DHHCAN). At DHHCAN, he represented the United States of America Deaf Sports Federation (USADSF) with distinction. He also served well as DHHCAN's secretary and treasurer for nearly 14 years.

"JJ had a wonderful sense of humor and many of us were amused by his unique contribution style" said Rosaline Crawford, who succeeded JJ as DHHCAN secretary and treasurer in 2008. "When he presented the treasurer's report, if the balance was not an even dollar amount, he would add his own pocket change to make sure the balance reported each month, without fail, was right on the dollar - not a penny less, not a penny more."

Cheryl Heppner, the current vice chair, served numerous times as DHHCAN's temporary secretary-treasurer during JJ's absences. "More than 14 years ago, I worked with JJ as part of the original group hammering out the bylaws" she recalls. "JJ had a great mind for legal and administrative processes, and in my years of work with him I found him meticulous in his record-keeping. He was never a person who had to be reminded to do anything."

JJ was also very supportive of TDI's and DHHCAN's work, especially with filings with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on various access issues. He was particularly interested to see progress in the quality of TV captioning. He frequently sent letters to TV stations, or networks to point out deficiencies in their captioned programs. If the response from the TV station or network was unsatisfactory, he would bring it to the FCC's attention.

Claude L. Stout, chair of the DHHCAN, said, "With JJ's passing, we can't help but feel a huge void in our network. JJ provided flawless stewardship for the DHHCAN treasury. More importantly, we were privileged to get his wisdom and counsel on a variety of access topics, particularly with TV captioning and air travel access. We will miss his presence at DHHCAN meetings. Our hearts and thoughts are with his wife, Shirley."

Obituary adapted from Potomac Deaf Times 3/28/08

**Dr. Jerald M. Jordan**, of West River, Maryland, passed away on Wednesday, March 26, 2008, from a long battle with cancer. He was born in Roseville, Michigan, on July 7, 1927, and became deaf at 7 years of age as a result of spinal meningitis. After attending various schools in Michigan, he enrolled in Gallaudet College (now University). After his graduation in 1948, he worked for two Washington, D.C., newspapers for 11 years. In 1959, he returned to Gallaudet College and taught science in the Preparatory Department. In 1961, he started teaching mathematics and became director of the Computing Center, a position he held until 1973. He was appointed the director of the College's Project Talent Search in 1973 and began working in the Admissions Office in 1976. He retired from Gallaudet University in 1991 and received an honorary degree in 1994. He is survived by his wife, Shirley.

Dr. Jordan was the featured keynote speaker at the 16th Winter Deaflympics Expo in 2007. Dr. Jordan was best known for his tireless efforts as the fifth president of International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (CISS/ICSD), where he worked, among many other projects, to build and solidify a strong relationship with the International Olympic Committee. He was elected to the ICSD executive committee in 1967 and became president in 1971, a position from which he served the international community for 24 years.

In accordance with Dr. Jordan's wishes, there will be no services.



*Dr. Jerald M. Jordan with his wife Shirley at their home*

UPPER PHOTO: COURTESY OF STEVE BRENNER  
LOWER PHOTO: FROM TDI ARCHIVES

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**About TDI:**

TDI is a membership organization that promotes equal access to telecommunications, media, and information technology for 31 million Americans who are deaf and hard of hearing. TDI educates and encourages consumer involvement regarding legal rights regarding access to technology; provides technical assistance and consultation to industry, associations, and individuals; encourages accessible applications of existing and emerging technologies in all sectors of the community; advises on and promotes the uniformity of standards for technologies; works in collaboration with other deaf and disability organizations, government, industry, and academia; develops and advocates national policies that support accessibility issues; and publishes *TDI World* quarterly magazine, *TDI Briefs* newsletter, and the annual *TDI National Directory & Resource Guide* or the *Blue Book*. For more information or to become a member or subscriber, go to [www.tdi-online.org](http://www.tdi-online.org).

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