

Dennis Platt as Torchbearer

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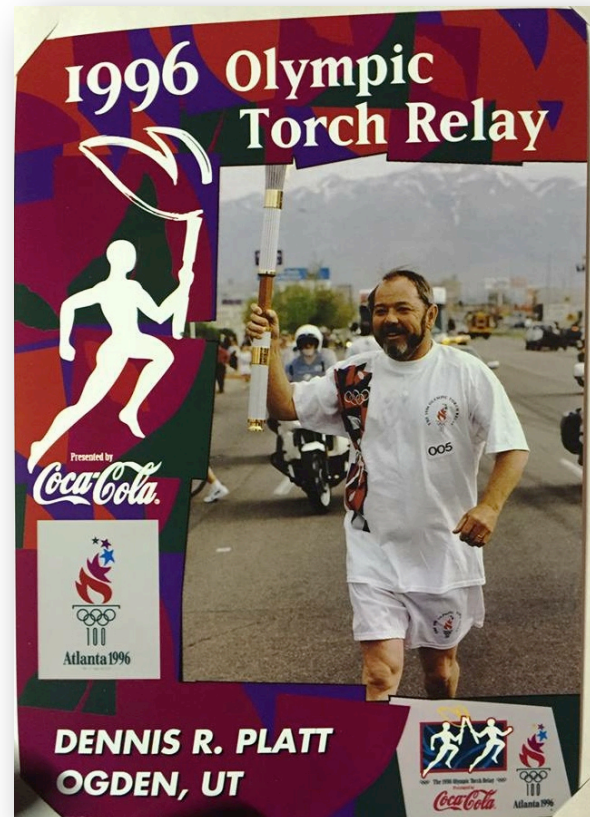
2015

In 1996, Dennis Platt, a well-known leader in the Utah Deaf community and a long time officer of the American Athletic Association of the Deaf (AAAD), was selected by a panel of Ogden and Weber County community leaders to carry the Olympic Flame. Out of 5,500 individuals, Dennis was picked as torchbearer in his Ogden region because he met four basic criteria used in the judging:

1. Outstanding volunteer work,
2. Community leader, role model or mentor,
3. Acts of generosity or kindness and
4. Extraordinary feats or accomplishments, locally or nationally (UAD Bulletin, February 1996; Shirley Platt, personal communication, January 6, 2015).

On May 10, 1996, the Olympic Spirit 1996 was heightened for the Deaf community in Ogden, Utah when Dennis carried the torch from 34th to 37th Street on Washington Boulevard. His granddaughter, Marissa Tarbet, hoisted the Olympic flag in front of the office of the American Athletic Association of the Deaf on 36th Street for the 15 minutes of glory (UAD Bulletin, July 1996, p. 11).

Dennis was very committed to the AAAD and he has a long list of volunteer services for this organization. In 1999, Dennis was elected to 1999 AAAD Hall of Fame as leader. In 25 years, he served continuously on AAAD committees as well as in various offices. In order to serve Deaf people who participated in the AAAD sport events, Dennis had “preserve in his



consistent and sustained efforts to help the AAAD into a strong, dynamic national organization (UAD Bulletin, December 1999, p. 5). His long service to the AAAD includes:

- AAAD Vice President of NSOs (1991-1994)
- AAAD Vice President for Financial Affairs (1994 – 1997)
- AAAD Ad Hoc Committee to establish women’s softball
- AAAD Restructuring Committee
- AAAD Law Committee member (eight years)
- AAAD Board of Director member (1980 – 1997)
- AAAD Basketball/Softball Commissioner
- AAAD Regional President’s Round Table (three years)
- AAAD Grants and Planning Committee member
- AAAD Audit Committee member
- AAAD Games Preparation Committee member

According to the issue of UAD Bulletin December 1999, it states that “Dennis served the AAAD during the tumultuous restructuring years, the years where several National Sports Organizations (NSOs) were “banned” and the years where AAAD finances were precarious. Declining to take adversarial political positions, he instead chose to quietly continue the very necessary “housekeeping” work, doing the tasks necessary to make the organization survive while others were in the spotlight pushing one political agenda or the other” (UAD Bulletin, December 1999, p. 5).

In addition to his AAAD service, Dennis also served in numerous leadership roles in Northwest Association of the Deaf (NWAAD). Between 1978 and 1997, he served as recording secretary, president, chairman of two regional basketball tournaments and one regional softball tournament. He was the first person to computerize tournament statistics in any region. In 1990, he was inducted into the NWAAD Hall of Fame (UAD Bulletin, December 1999, p. 5).

Dennis officially retired in 2002 after 28 years of service to Deaf sports (Shirley Platt, personal communication, January 6, 2015).

In conclusion, Dennis, with a humble and quiet demeanor, deserves the recognition for his long history of volunteer services to various organizations such as American Athletic Association of the Deaf, Northwest Association of the Deaf and Golden Spike Athletic Club of

the Deaf. He did not only participate in sport organizations, he also served on numerous committees and in various offices for the Ogden Division #127 for the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf, Utah Association for the Deaf and USDB Institutional Council. We owe a debt of gratitude to Dennis for his unselfish services to the Utah Deaf Community.

Note

Shirley Platt, personal communication, January 6, 2015.

Bibliography

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