

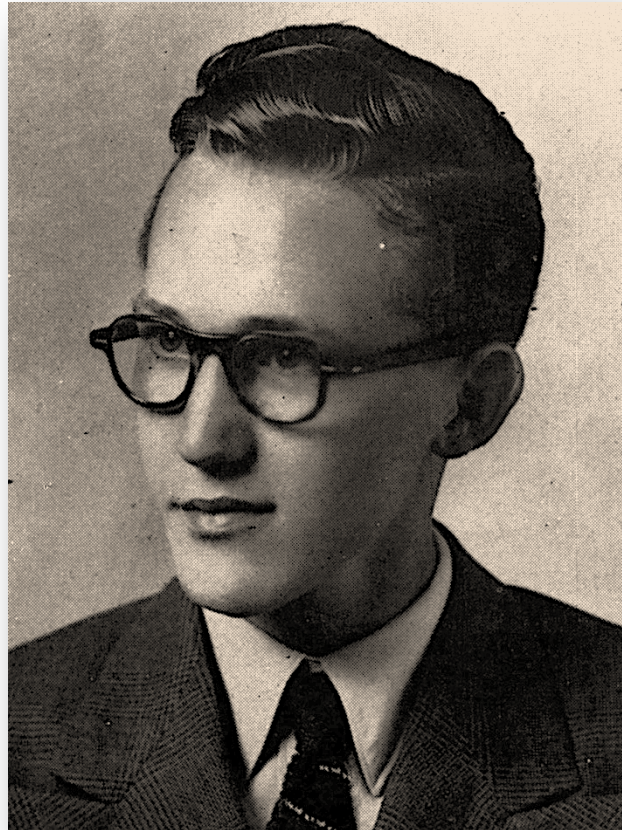
W. David Mortensen

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Edited by Valerie G. Kinney
2012

W. David Mortensen was born in Provo, Utah on June 3, 1931. He was the last of five children born to Neve and Louie Elizabeth Allred Mortensen. He is usually known as “Dave” (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

In the fall of 1935, Dave and his family came down with scarlet fever except for his older sister and brother and father – they were away from home for work. Louie Mortensen and the children were each isolated in their own bedroom. Scarlet fever was a communicable disease, a prevalent illness among children at that time. It was Dave who did not recover well; complications developed, there was swelling behind his ear where the mastoid bones were, and he had surgery to remove the bones. He recovered nicely but the following fall, he became ill again and the doctors informed mother that if her son survived the night

it would be a miracle and not medical prowess. He went in for surgery again for sinus thrombosis, a very serious complication. He was taken to the Clark Clinic in Provo because there was no hospital there. The only hospital was in Salt Lake City. It was too risky to transport Dave



W. David Mortensen, 1949 Utah School
for the Deaf Senior

to the Salt Lake City hospital (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

Dave's mother went to clean the Clark Clinic to pay for the surgery. Since there were no "miracle drugs," the whole family had to depend on prayers that Dave's life would be spared.



Dad, Neve, Kent, Don an Dave (age 6)

His mother and Dave's "Aunt" Alta spent every hour cleaning out his throat removing phlegm or mucus from his throat for quite some time. Finally, prayers were answered with the announcement that Dave was on the road to full recovery. It was not until later in the spring of 1937 that his mother noticed Dave didn't turn around when called. She suspected that he was gradually losing his hearing, but that did not stop him from becoming a proficient lip reader. In fact, the family wouldn't have known that he was losing his hearing because of his skills in lip-reading. He talked very well, until his mother started calling his name and he was not turning around (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

Although Dave spoke well, he felt that he didn't notice the difference because he understood his family quite well through lip reading. He didn't believe he was different from his family. His brother and sister had to prove his deafness so one stood behind him and the other in front and then asked what the one behind was saying. That was when he realized he was deaf

from scarlet fever and mastoid infection (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

Peggy McEntee, a reporter for the Deseret News who communication Dave shared that during Dave's early years, he went to a public school, Joaquin (pronounce: walk-keen) Elementary School. From his experience, his association at school was "normal" to say the least. Since he could

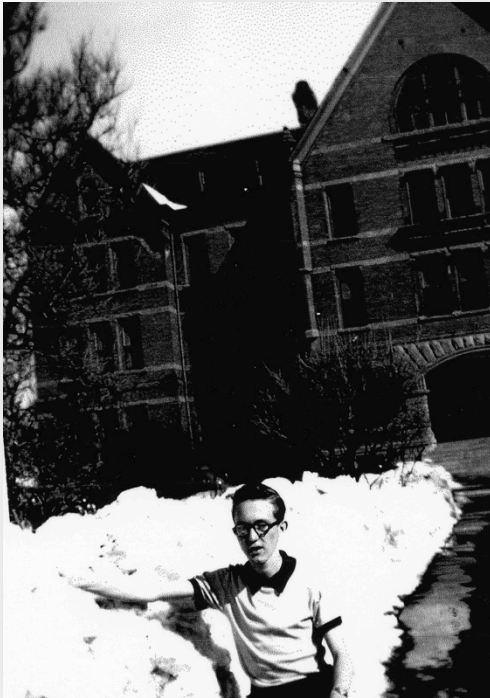
lip-read and speak well, he got along very well with his peers. In the classroom, his teacher used to tell him to draw pictures while the rest of the class listened to music. He thought he was the only deaf person in the world. He

didn't know he was deaf until he was eight years old. At the public school, Dave did remarkably well, but he often felt lost in the classroom, unable to follow the teacher or participate in the same programs as hearing children (Deseret News, July 26, 1986).



Dave's last year at Joaquin Elementary School
He was 10 years old at the time

Peggy McEntee noted that during the year 1941, a state law was passed requiring hearing tests be given in all public schools. Deaf students were to attend the Utah School for the Deaf (USD) (Deseret News, July 26, 1986). Dave was one of them and was transferred to that school in the fall of 1942 at the age of 11. He learned sign language for the first time and met Deaf teachers who became his role models. At first, he experienced an "identity crisis" when attending USD (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009). The reporter added that Dave didn't realize there were other Deaf people like him (Deseret News, July 26, 1986). As time passed, he learned who he was as



**In 1942 at the age of 11, Dave was enrolled at the Utah School for the Deaf
He is sitting in front of the Main Building**

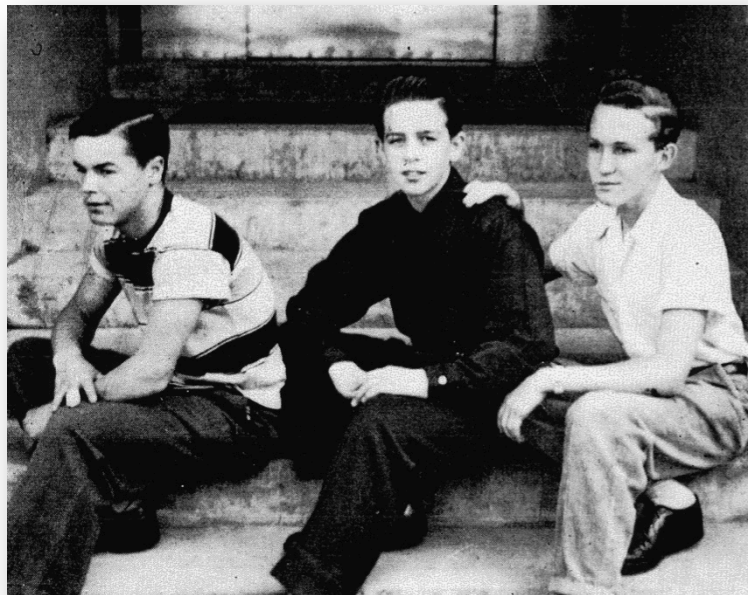
a Deaf person, and developed a talent as an advocate for the deaf. Since then, he has been very involved in the Deaf community throughout his life (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

McEntee noted that Dave soon rose to the top of his class at the Utah School for the Deaf (Deseret News, July 26, 1986). He was initially placed in the fifth year class (equal to the third grade), same age group. After a month, he was transferred to the fifth grade, with students older than he was. He excelled

academically. Starting kindergarten in the public school, he became an avid reader. Dave adored books and would check out books from the library and take them home to read. Sometime he forgot to return books to the library. In fact, there were some books that

Dave hadn't returned and are still in his bookcase to this day (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

While a student at USD, Dave became a



Dave with his Park Literacy Society team during his senior year at the Utah School for the Deaf in 1949

member of the Park Literary Society and the Arthur Wenger Athletic Association. Upon graduation from Utah School for the Deaf in 1949 at the age of 17, he attended Brigham Young University, majoring in journalism. At the same time, he was employed at the BYU Press. After two years, Dave decided to leave BYU because there were almost no Deaf people in Provo. He was lonely for socialization with Deaf people. Although he had hearing friends galore, they did not fill him with enthusiasm (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

Dave shared a memory about a mishap with a mini-tractor at the Utah School for the Deaf. He wanted to drive the mini-tractor so he went to the shed where it was stored, and drove it around. When he came to a steep incline, he made the mistake of using the wrong gear, and the



Dave in his classic car, 1950s

mini-tractor went over the incline, throwing him off. He was sore and bruised. The school superintendent, Dr. Boyd Nelson, wrote a letter to Dave's dad and said he might expel his son. So his dad took the letter to a friend who was a judge, and the judge wrote to Dr. Boyd Nelson telling him that he could not do that

because the school was responsible for Dave and they failed that responsibility. He was about 15 or 16 years old at that time (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

Another memory from the summer of 1947, Dave started embroidery because there were no Deaf peers with whom he could hang around in Provo. He created a beautiful piece of work, which he entered in the Utah State Fair and won first place (The embroidery piece is in an

antique frame and hangs on Kristi's living room wall next to the front door). He developed a talent in making shirts and other embroidered projects (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

In 1952, Dave moved to Salt Lake City where a large Deaf community resided. There, he got a job at an engraving company and remained there until he got married in 1954. David and Shanna, an USD alumnus of 1954, were married June 15 in the Salt Lake Temple. He got a new



Shanna Christiansen, 1954 Utah School for the Deaf Senior

job working at the Newspaper Agency Corporation, the publisher of the Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News newspapers, on the night shift (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

Dave and Shanna had five children from 1956 to 1966 – Kevin David, Kristi Lee, Karin Jane, Kent Ross and Kory Neve. Karin died in 1989 from an epileptic seizure. Kristi communicated in sign language but she could speak well with her grandparents, hearing siblings and neighborho

od peers. Her mother doesn't speak but her father does. Kristi's deafness went unknown until Grandma Mortensen and Aunt Mary told Dave and Shanna of some speculation that Kristi was losing her hearing. In June of 1961 Dave and Shanna took her for a hearing test at the University of Utah with Jim Hilber, an audiologist, and it was determined she had some hearing loss, but was not completely deaf. When Dave learned of his daughter's hearing loss, he wept, not



Ron Nelson & Kristi Mortensen, 2014

because of her deafness but because of the lousy education at the Utah School for the Deaf. At this time, tests at the University of Utah were reported to the USD. Two months later, four representatives from USD came to their house and talked to Dave and Shanna, telling them they should send her to Ogden. Dave said no because there was segregation on that campus. He kept her at home and enrolled her in the oral program at Riley School in Salt Lake City at the age of 4 (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

Dave decided to continue his education and began classes at the University of Utah, majoring in sociology in 1970 with his interpreter, Beth Ann Campbell paid by Vocational Rehabilitation. At the same time, he continued to work at the Newspaper Agency Corporation



Dave Mortensen, 1980
Photo by Robert L. Bonnell

on the night shift. In 1974, he was offered job counseling at the Valley Mental Health where he worked during the day while attending the university. In 1976, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and obtained a Certificate of Social Work. Despite holding down a full schedule of work, family, church and civic duties, Dave achieved a first – the first Deaf person in Utah to be accredited as a social worker (UAD Bulletin, July 1976). He was also the first Deaf person to earn a master's degree in social work at the University of Utah (Green, *Fox13*, March 29, 2014).

While Dave was still working at the Valley Mental Health as a counselor for the deaf during the day and night shifts at NAC, he returned to the University of Utah in 1980 to study for his Master's degree in social work. He graduated in 1982, and became a licensed clinical social worker (UAD Bulletin, November 1999).

At the same time, Dave managed to find the time to be active with the Utah Association for the Deaf (UAD). In spite of his busy schedule, Dave also managed to volunteer as a room father once or twice a week in Kristi's classroom – a self-contained classroom for the deaf in the Riley Elementary in South Salt Lake, then in the Lafayette Elementary School in Salt Lake City downtown, then in the Dilworth Elementary School east of Sugarhouse. Dave felt he needed to be in the classroom as often as he could to ensure Kristi was getting the right education. He also



1969-1971 OFFICERS

Front row (left to right): Richard Brubaker, Valerie Platt, Joseph Burnett, Dennis Platt, Ned Wheeler. Back row, Robert Bonnell, Lloyd Perkins, David Mortensen, Robert Sanderson. Absent: George Laramie and Gene Stewart.

The UAD Bulletin, December 1969

wanted to be a role model as a Deaf adult to other Deaf students who were not as fortunate as Kristi was. He also took Kristi aside on Saturday mornings after family chores to teach her different subjects to ensure that Kristi did not miss out or lagged behind when she entered both junior high school and high school. During the summer, he would take her to his classes at the University of

Utah, as part of his teaching curriculum (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

Since 1967, Dave served the UAD in a variety positions, notably as president and as editor (UAD Bulletin, October 2007, p. 1 & 5). He started out his involvement as UAD Bulletin editor, serving for several years and later served as editor of the Utah TTY Directory (UAD Bulletin, August 1995; Kinney, *UAD Bulletin*, March 2002).

During the UAD convention in 1971, Dave was elected as UAD president. As explained in the “The Deaf Education History in Utah,” he carried his torch, fighting for the right of Deaf children to proper education and for political issues. In the fall of 1971, a two-track education system was formed, the Oral and Total Communication tracks. He also fought to get Murray

School District to pay for interpreters for Kristi when she attended junior high and high school. It was his Deaf daughter who inspired him to become a true advocate of deaf children's right to fair access to education, the same as hearing students, and not be left out (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009). Dave Mortensen was an ambitious, persistent leader (Dr. Robert Sanderson & Valerie Kinney, personal communication, July 8, 2011). He is probably best known as a political activist. Dave stated, "I firmly believe that an education taught in the proper mode will enable many to achieve a good education and much success in life's consequences" (UAD Bulletin, November 1999, p. 5).

His positive role model exerted a beneficial influence on Kristi, and she became a Deaf education advocate. On May 2, 2002, the Governor's Commission for Women and Families awarded an Honorable Mention to Kristi for her service and accomplishments in education. The ceremony was held in the Gold Room at the State Capitol (UAD Bulletin, June 2002, p. 1).

Although Dave and Shanna spent a lot of time focusing on Kristi's education, they did not neglect their other four children. The parents took them on annual trips to Columbus, Ohio; Boston, Massachusetts; and San Francisco, California visiting Dave's siblings, and found many interesting places on these road trips (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

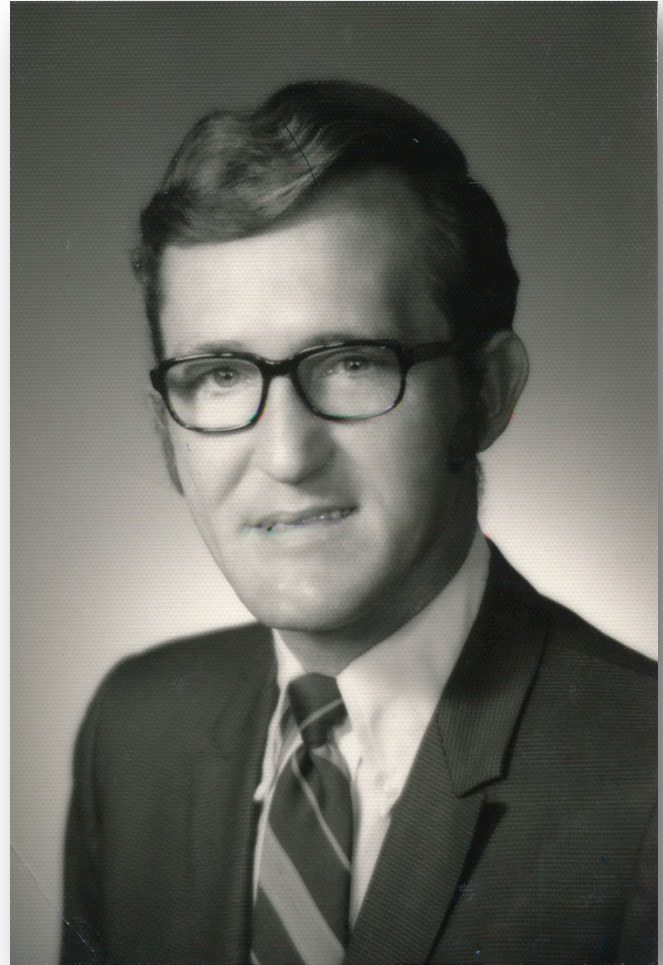
Dave had long been actively making contributions through the UAD. He served as president of the UAD in 1971 – 1985, 1987 – 1991, 1993 – 1997, serving a total of 22 years. He is the longest serving president in the association and no one has beaten his record. Dave saw the organization go from a simple format to a more complex format, where he was called upon to administer several programs. UAD went from a small home-run organization to a well-functioning business office during his presidencies (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

Dave, as a long time president, contributed his unselfish service to the UAD, especially with regard to his work with the Utah Legislature. He actively solicited the help of his district representatives and senators on issues of importance to Deaf people – at a time when most of them were too lazy or afraid to get out and do some lobbying. He was effective and legislators listened and learned about deafness and Deaf people (UAD Bulletin, November 1999). Dave was neither afraid nor lazy. He used his political contacts to educate the legislators about deafness and Deaf people.

His lobbying, for example, gave push to the establishment of a deaf center – the first one being the Utah Community Center for the Deaf in Bountiful (UAD Bulletin, October 2007, p. 1 & 5).

He was instrumental in getting the TTY Program in Utah for the deaf established in 1975 through a grant from the federal government (UAD Bulletin, November 1999).

In 1986, Dave worked hard with the state legislature to pass a law to have two Deaf persons serve on the USDB Institutional Council (later renamed to the Advisory Council) (UAD Bulletin, November 1999).



Dave Mortensen as president of the Utah Association for the Deaf, 1975

Dave worked effectively behind the scenes rounding up members of the Deaf community in Utah to lobby on Capitol Hill to get a relay service for Utah. A law was passed through his

efforts, and the Utah Relay Service for the Deaf was established in 1988 (UAD Bulletin, November 1999).

In 1994, Dave was back again before the state legislature lobbying to have American



Dave is talking to Utah Governor Scott M. Matheson about the TTYs in 1971. The interpreter is Lucy Greenwood

Sign Language recognized as a language and helped establish the Interpreter Training Program at Salt Lake Community College (UAD Bulletin, November 1999). He spoke to committees of the Community Councils of Salt Lake City and United Way, which led to the establishment of interpreter service. Today, we have the Utah Interpreter Program and a number of

interpreting business. As the result of his push for interpreters in medical settings, the medical community was more aware of the need to call for interpreters for Deaf people (UAD Bulletin, October 2007, p. 1 & 5).

He had been an active member of the Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities and had worked with the Utah State Committee of Consumer Services (UAD Bulletin, November 1999).

Over the years, Dave was a leader of various rallies at the:

- Utah State Board of Education, to let Total Communication be the



Signing to permit purchase of TTYs for free distribution in 1988. Governor Norman Bangeter sitting. L-R: Lee Shepherd, Kristi Mortensen, Shanna Mortensen, Donna Lee Westberg, Tim Funk (assisted Dave Mortensen on the Hill), Ben Edwards, Mr. Edwards, Roy Cochran, Senator Darrel Renstrom, D-Ogden (He helped passed the SB 101 bill), Dave Mortensen, Art Valdez

main focus on education of the deaf in 1970.

- University of Utah, to include Total Communication pedagogy in the Teacher Preparation Program in 1977.
- Utah Capitol, to pass a law to establish the Utah Interpreter Service under a state funding in 1982, after the United Way discontinued funding support.
- Utah Capitol, to pass Senate Bill 101 to set up a Utah Relay Service in 1987.
- Utah Capitol, to pass the law to establish the Interpreting Training Program at Salt Lake Community College for prospective interpreters in 1994.
- Utah Capitol, to enact a law recognizing American Sign Language as a foreign language and requiring schools, colleges and universities to accept American Sign Language for credit toward language requirements in 1994.

Dave also spent years lobbying the Utah Legislature to:

- Get funding for the Robert G. Sanderson Community Center.
- Authorize a fee on telephone service to get money to set up a Utah Relay Service for the Deaf in 1987.

In 1978, Dave went to the United Way and obtained money to set up the first Interpreter Service for the Deaf. UAD was the first to manage the Relay Service in Utah. UAD maintained



Dave Mortensen, 1980
Photo by Robert L. Bonnell

that program for a few years until he went to the Legislature in 1987 asking to pass Senate Bill 101 to establish a permanent interpreting service to assist Utah Relay Service (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009). Dave did extensive lobbying at the Utah capitol working to obtain phone surcharges to fund a relay service and TTY distribution program in Utah (Kinney, *UAD Bulletin*, March 2002).

The idea of giving an award to outstanding Deaf persons in each state came from the 1978 National Association of the Deaf conference. Starting the Golden Hand Award in Utah was

Dave's idea. A year later in 1979, he received the first Golden Hand Award given by the Utah

Association for the Deaf. It was to be a paper certificate but he felt a plaque was better and a plaque has been awarded each time ever since (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

In 1979, Dave as UAD president implemented the Miss Deaf Utah Pageant when the National Association of the Deaf asked each state to have a Miss Deaf (State) contestant attending the centennial year anniversary of the National Association of the Deaf in 1980 in Cincinnati, Ohio (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

Several committees David involved were:

- Public Service Commission on the distribution of TTYs
- Committee on Interpreting
- Utah Relay Committee, as Chairman
- Committee to encourage hospitals to have interpreters for Deaf patients
- Committee to request lawyers to hire interpreters when with a deaf client
- Utah Telecom Directory for several years, as editor



Dave is talking with Utah Governor Norman Bangerter and thanking him for signing the bills advancing deaf causes, 1991

Dave had been a strong advocate for the deaf throughout his life. In 1995, Utah Association for the Deaf gave Shanna Mortensen a Presidential Award in recognition of her long patience with 22 years of giving much background support to her husband, Dave's service to Utah Association for the Deaf. She was also given a lifetime membership in Utah Association for the Deaf (UAD Bulletin, July 1995).

Dave shared in the September 1996 UAD Bulletin that at the age of 58, he took his early retirement as a “buy-out” from the NAC after working for 31 years. He continued to work at the Valley Mental Health until the age of 65 in 1996, after 23 years of service. To add them up, he got 54 years of working; those two places had an overlap, including 8 years Dave spent at the University of Utah studying for his MSW degree (Mortensen, *UAD Bulletin*, September 1996).



**Dave with a large mailbox TTY machine
UAD Bulletin, June 1972**

He taught American Sign Language classes at the Salt Lake Community College for two years (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009). While he worked and attended school, he served as president of the UAD

for 22 years. Dave felt his time has been well spent and stated that many board members in those years helped and deserve as much credit and a pat on their back for their work (Mortensen, *UAD Bulletin*, September 1996).

The following awards Dave received are:

- 1972: National Association of the Deaf Award for excellence in cultural achievement news publication
- July 1973: Certification from Registry of Interpreting for the Deaf in reverse interpreting
- August 1976: Certification from Utah Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf in reverse interpreting
- 1976-1979: Certification of Appreciation from Utah State Board of Education for service on Utah State Advisory Committee

- May 1977: Served as the delegate to the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, in recognition of dedicated services
- 1979: Utah Association for the Deaf Golden Hand Award
- June 1981: Meritorious Service Award in recognition of valuable service on the Board of UAD
- June 1987: Certification of Appreciation in contribution unlimited time on SB 101
- January 1990: Utah State Committee of Consumer Service for strong consumer advocacy
- March 1990: Utah State Office of Rehabilitation – Coalition for people with disabilities
- 1993: Guerts/Knowles Outstanding Volunteer Award: in recognition of exemplary service rendered to offenders at the Utah State Prison
- January 1995: F.O.E. Aerie #76 Achievement Award for inspiration, strength and determination to overcome any obstacles
- July 1998: Award from National Association of the Deaf Knights of the Flying Fingers
- 1999: Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Legacy Award for USDB Alumni Achievement
- June, 2003: Utah Educational Interpreter Award as deaf community advocate in the field of educational interpreting



**In September 2007, the Distinguished Service Award is given to Dave for his long time service to the Utah Association for the Deaf, especially with regard to his work with the Utah Legislature
L-R: Robert G. Sanderson, Dave Mortensen, Miss Deaf America, Chelsea and Utah Association for the Deaf president Rob Kerr**

In September 2007, the Distinguished Service Award was given to Dave for his long time service to the Utah Association for the Deaf, especially with regard to his work with the Utah Legislature. He actively solicited the help of his district representatives and senators on issues of importance to Deaf people – at a time when most of them were too lazy or afraid to get out and do some lobbying. He was effective, and the legislators listened and learned about deafness and Deaf people (UAD Bulletin, October 2007, p. 1 & 5).

Dave, a long time UAD president was questioned in the 1997 UAD Bulletin, “What’s ahead for the UAD to be doing?” He, then answered that, “There are and will be a continuous stream of various matters popping up, matters that might stop our onward movement to achieve more enhancement to the quality of our lives. Looking back on the years I spent as president, it seems it was only yesterday when my work started. I do believe that many achievements were accomplished during my tenure. This doesn’t mean that it is the end of the road for me. No, the road we are traveling on has no “Deaf End.” He also stated:

“The UAD is a household word among the deaf and hard of hearing community. Why? Issues that improve and enhance the quality of our lives have been brought into reality. There are many more issues that will be worked on in the coming years. The deaf and hard of hearing have always had to work and fight for what they felt was rightfully part of their lives. I cannot keep thinking of how many things that has been brought up, and goals have been set, and work is progressing. We don’t always succeed the first time, but we don’t give up, either. “Dave had spent a good part of his life, leading the UAD. Whatever had been accomplished during this time, he was proud of it because it benefited everyone, not just a single person. He said, “If I had my life to live again, would I go through it? You bet!” (Mortensen, *UAD Bulletin*, July 1997, p. 3).

Dave’s hobbies had been gardening, reading, and staying active in the Utah Deaf community. Dave served as Sunday school president for 13 years, and also Sunday school instructor and priesthood instructor at Salt Lake Valley Branch, later Ward, in 1971. He continued to serve as Sunday school and priesthood instructor for 23 years until September 1998 when Salt Lake Valley Ward split into 1st and 2nd Wards. Dave served as executive secretary for three years at Salt Lake Valley 2nd Ward for the Deaf (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L.



Shanna and Dave Mortensen in 1987
Photo by Robert L. Bonnell

Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

Dave and Shanna are the proud grandparents of 11 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter (Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, personal communication, April 17, 2009).

In 2013, Dave had been appointed president emeritus by the Utah Association of the Deaf. He succeeded Dr. Robert G. Sanderson, who passed away in February 2012 (Kinney & Kinner, *UAD Bulletin*, August 2013).



Dave Mortensen cutting a ribbon

At the UAD meeting in 2013, Jodi Becker Kinner, an amateur historian proposed honoring Dave for his exemplary service and her proposal was approved. Through collaboration with the UAD Honoring Event Committee, Utah Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Utah Association of the Deaf, a special ceremony was held to unveil Dave's Lifetime Advocacy Award and portrait with brief biography honoring more than 40 years of advocacy contributions to the Utah Deaf community on March 29, 2014. A brunch was served to over 50 people. During Dave's honoring ceremony, speakers Philippe Montalette, UAD president; Marilyn Call, DSDHH director; Don Uchida, retired USOR executive director; and Valerie Kinney, gave



Dave standing in front of his two plaques

talks covering various aspects of Dave's life, from childhood to present day (Kinney, *UAD Bulletin*, April 2014).

At Dave's honoring ceremony, Marilyn Call, director of the DSDHH praised 'his tireless



Krsti & Dave

efforts through the years to fight for deaf rights in education, the workplace, interpreting and medical fields.' Dave was overwhelmed by the recognition and said, "His ultimate goal all along was to provide deaf people with equal access to everything hearing people had." His daughter, Kristi noted that, "He is a good reminder for us that when we see a barrier, we need to do something and speak up. We have all kinds of accessibility and technology today. Our lives are much better because of him" (Lee, *KSL*, March 29, 2014).

The plaques along with his portrait and brief biography

are hung in the museum area at the Sanderson

Community Center for all to see and remember. His work often was behind the scenes, but his contributions speak the volume. Dave had promoted civil and accessibility rights for the local Deaf community imparting a valuable legacy to future generations.



Marilyn & Dave

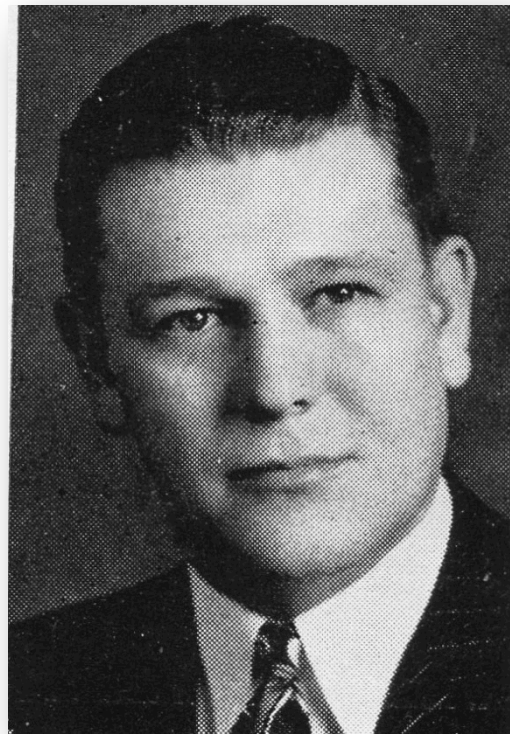


Shanna, Kristi & Dave

Dave passed away on January 20, 2018 in West Jordan, Utah surrounded by those whom he loved and loved him in return, at the home of his daughter Kristi Lee Mortensen (Obituary for Warren David Mortensen).

Did You Know?

Kristi Mortensen's husband, Ron Nelson explained in the September 2003 UAD Bulletin that USDB Superintendent Boyd E. Nelson is his great uncle (meaning his father's uncle). Boyd Nelson only stayed with USDB for a few years before transferring to New Jersey as State Superintendent of schools (Nelson, *UAD Bulletin*, September 2003).



Boyd E. Nelson

Note

Dave Mortensen, Renae M. White, Don M. Mortensen, and Kristi L. Mortensen, e-mail message to Jodi B. Kinner, April 17, 2009.

Robert Sanderson & Valerie Kinney, e-mail message to Jodi B. Kinner, July 8, 2011.

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