

ALBERT FRANCIS SCMICKEL

Spud Schmickel died Christmas Day, 1988 at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia as a result of complications following a heart transplant performed nineteen days earlier. According to the Marshfield, Massachusetts *Patriot Ledger*, "the nation lost a leading advocate for the disabled, a man described by friends and colleagues as a pioneer in the human services field."

After leaving USNA at the end of our Second Class year, Spud completed his undergraduate degree at Southern Connecticut State College in 1961 and began a 25 year career helping the handicapped. His "tours of duty" included stops in Waterford, CT, Gainesville and Tallahassee, Fl, prior to becoming the Executive Director of the Stonegate School for Retarded Children in Durham, CT from 1967 to 1971. In 1971 he helped form New England Villages, Inc., a non-profit organization providing residential and day programs for retarded adults in Pembroke, MA. He served there as Executive Director until 1981 when he left to implement a new mental health concept which became known as South Shore Respite Care Center in Marshfield, MA. This revolutionary concept provided short-term care for disabled and retarded adults and children, enabling their families to take a break or much-needed vacation. Just prior to his death, Spud began the conversion of South Shore from a respite care center into a shelter for homeless families.

Spud was held in high regard by the professionals in his field as evidenced by the position he held in various associations: President, National Association of Private Residential Facilities (1969-70-71) and Vice President, Private Residential Facility Division (1981- 82). The State Secretary of Human Services (Massachusetts) summarized Spud's career accomplishments best when he eulogized him as a very caring man who spent his entire career initiating and managing effective programs to help disabled people. He was a compassionate man who had a great love for the handicapped and was their "champion." Spud's dad said he looked back on his days at USNA with great fondness and respect for his classmates and the training and preparation he got there for life. He was very proud of those years. Spud was survived by five daughters, one granddaughter, his parents, a brother and two sisters. Joe Matais and Doug Menikheim from The Terrible Tenth' attended his memorial service on December 30, 1988.

Anonymous
30th Year Book