

Fredrick C. Schreiber

1922 – 1979

“Deaf Rights Advocate/Activist”

Fredrick C Schreiber was best known for his leadership in the deaf community worldwide. He was an advocate for civil, educational and human rights for deaf people everywhere. He always said, “Ears are not important. It’s what’s between them that count!”

Born in Brooklyn, New York, by the age of 6½, after four bouts of spinal meningitis, Fred was left deaf and with a severe curvature of his spine that was straightened out later in life after years of wearing a brace.

Fred completed his high school education at Fanwood (NY School for the Deaf) before transferring to Gallaudet College in 1937 at the age of 15. At Gallaudet, he was popular, active in both sports and local clubs and was known for writing “*Buff and Blue*”.

After the World War II, Fred worked as a teacher, tutor, counselor, and printer before becoming the first Executive Secretary of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) in 1966. Then he, with the support of the deaf community, bought a “home office” building and created a multi-million dollar association with 40 employees. The NAD, under his leadership and vision, evolved into a progressive organization on Deaf rights

Throughout his life, Fred volunteered his time and enlisted others to serve on boards, participate with local clubs and newsletters, and to create new and innovative programs and services for the deaf community. Today, there are many awards for leadership and volunteerism in Fred’s honor.