Steven A. Blehm
2018 Deaf Father of the Year

It is with honor and respect that Steven Blehm of Staunton, VA, has been selected as the 2018 recipient of VAD’s Deaf Father of the Year award.

Steven was born in South Dakota, and his family moved to Colorado so Steven could attend a mainstreamed school. His family then moved to Michigan, and he attended the Michigan School for the Deaf in Flint for a couple of years. Then his family moved to North Dakota where he attended the North Dakota School for the Deaf. While there, he played basketball and scored 3,859 points in four years. That is an average of between 35 and 40 points per game, a feat that only a great basketball player can accomplish.

Steven attended Gallaudet College (now renamed Gallaudet University) and played basketball for four years. He was chosen as the Most Valuable Player (MVP) twice. He also played golf for four years and won the MVP award. He was honored as the Athlete of the Year with an award given by Block G. He graduated from Gallaudet in 1978.

Steven participated in the World Games for the Deaf in Romania in 1977, playing for the United States basketball team, where he won a Gold Medal.

He worked as a recreational coordinator at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) for eight years. He has now worked for the United States Post Office for more than 32 years. Steven participated in several community activities in Staunton. He was a treasurer of the Skyline Chapter of VAD for one year, and also of the Shenandoah Valley Club of the Deaf for many years.

Steve is also active in his church. He is a leader with influence on his young friends. He is an avid hunter using different kinds of rifles and bow and arrow.

Steven was married to Linda Blehm (now deceased) and raised three daughters, Vera, Maggie, and Sarah, who are all fluent in ASL. He has three young grandchildren.

Congratulations to Steven A. Blehm!