

Missing Herb

By Stuart Wittenstein, Lou Tutt, & Jerry Kitzhoffer,



On October 16, 2004, blindness education and DVI lost a leader and a friend when Herb Miller died of complications after a heart procedure. Herbert Miller had been the chief administrator of St. Joseph's School for the Blind in Jersey City for over 20 years. During those years, he expanded and strengthened services at St. Joseph's making it a national model of excellence.

Herb was an extremely active member of DVI and CEC and served in several capacities on the DVI Board, including Governor. In 1996, DVI recognized Herb's commitment to our professional organization by presenting him with the Division's Distinguished Service Award.

As a leader in blindness education, Herb championed services for children with multiple disabilities and stressed the need for specialized services for all blind children. As co-chair of Choices for Children he was instrumental in protecting the rights of blind children during the reauthorization of IDEA in 1997.

As president of the Council of Schools for the Blind he stressed strengthening the services provided by the schools and fostering new leadership. He created the COSB Leadership Institute, which continues to meet annually as a related meeting at the APH Annual Meeting each October. COSB recognized his contributions and skills with COSB's highest award, the William H. English Leadership Award, in 1999.

Among Herb's other awards were the New Jersey CEC President's Award (1995) and the New Jersey AER Distinguished Service Award.

Herb will be remembered as a friend, colleague, mentor, family man, and committed passionate educator. He will also be remembered for the joy he brought to his work. He taught many of us that it was okay to have fun while doing good work and while we should always take our work seriously, we should never take ourselves too seriously.

Herb loved wearing his red socks to our meetings, and we expect that Herb's Blues Brother, Elwood, will start wearing red socks to the meetings Herb would have attended in the future.