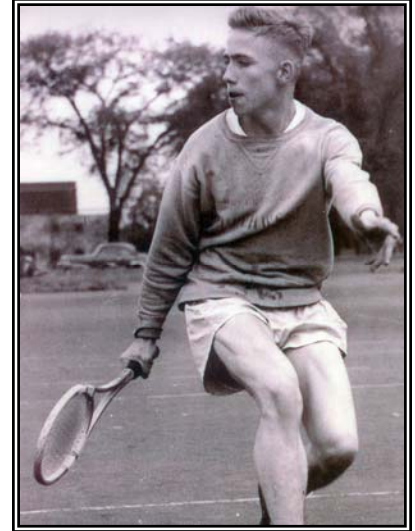




IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**Jack Arnold Thommen**

Jack Thommen of Edina, Minnesota passed away October 22, 2008 from melanoma cancer. Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on November 7, 1927 to parents Gustave A. Thommen and Mae (Soupiset) Thommen.

As a young child Jack had received tennis lessons in the 1930's from tennis pro Bobby Riggs. He then went on to win several Minnesota State High School Tennis Championships playing for Minneapolis Southwest High School. Jack Thommen was also captain of the University Of Minnesota Tennis Team where he earned both bachelors and masters degrees in education.



He also played for two years at Gustavus college where he was inducted into their tennis hall of fame as well for winning several college championships. In the 1940's he had a national ranking before entering the service where he played tennis around the country for the US Army Air Corps. He always said, "Tennis did so much for me that I wanted to share it with other young people." He was recently featured on the cover and in a new book called "Tennis In The Northland".

He always had a passion for serving inner city youth. He worked for Minneapolis Schools for over 40 years. Jack worked with the YMCA for several years prior to the beginning of his teaching career. Before developing youth programs, Thommen had been a teacher at several Minneapolis Public Schools including Bancroft, Kenny, Keeywaydin, Armatage and Nokomis Junior High.

He founded Minneapolis Urban Tennis (Inner City Tennis) in 1971 which grew to serve thousands of Minneapolis children with free tennis instruction at almost every park in the city of Minneapolis and eventually in Saint Paul. He also helped pioneer and start Community Education programs for Minneapolis schools in the 1960s. The program continues to provide a wide range of after school programs for youth and adult education programs at several community schools. At one time in the early years of the new program he managed over 60 school program sites until the district was able to add management staff. He also helped form the Minnesota State Wide Community Education Association and served several years as a board member. In 2007 he was inducted into the United States Tennis Association Hall of Fame.

In recent years he was active with Bloomington Covenant Church, The Minneapolis Retired Teachers Association, Northwest Kiwanis Club and the Park Plaza Senior Community.

Preceded in death by loving wife Joyce (Lundeen) Thommen.

Survived by children Wade Thommen and wife Brenda of Edina, Becky Nye and husband Dan of Edina, Peter Thommen of Jordan, grandchildren Kalli, Alie, Sarah and Elizabeth, sisters Marilyn Dawson and Jodie Pieschel.

Visitation: Sunday, October 26, 2008, 5-8PM  
Bloomington Covenant Church, 10150 Xerxes Avenue S. Bloomington, Minnesota 55431  
(952) 831-8339 [www.bcov.org](http://www.bcov.org) [office@bcov.org](mailto:office@bcov.org)

Services: Monday, October 27, 2008, 11AM with visitation prior  
Bloomington Covenant Church

Interment  
Lakewood Cemetery, 3600 Hennepin Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408

Memorials Preferred To  
Bloomington Covenant Church or Hospitality House