

SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY EXTENDS HONORARY ALUMNUS STATUS TO CULBERTSON

Commandant of Cadets Promotes Culbertson to Cadet/Command Sergeant Major
MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Oct. 20, 2010 – Saint Thomas Academy announced today that retired teacher, college counselor, dean of students, coach and announcer Bill Culbertson was given the honorary status of alumnus at the Academy's recent Reunion Weekend festivities. The motion was made by his son, John, and was passed unanimously by all the alumni association members in attendance. In presenting the honor, Headmaster Dr. Thomas Mich read the following letter:

In recognition of your 40 plus years of meritorious service to Saint Thomas Academy, your dignity, your grace, your unassailable sense of fairness and duty, the virtue with which you live and share your life, by the power vested in our offices, we heartily declare you an

Alumnus of Saint Thomas Academy

We can think of no finer person who better exemplifies the ideals of an Academy man. Welcome to the Saint Thomas Academy Alumni Association.

It was signed by Mich; Richard J. Anderson '80, chair of the board of trustees; and Richard J. Battis '79, president of the alumni association.

Military Honor

In the same ceremony LTC Michael DePuglio, U.S. Army (ret.), commandant of cadets, and three previous Cadet Colonels promoted Culbertson to the rank of Cadet/Command Sergeant Major (C/CSM).

"As a formative influence on so many cadets through the years, the school agreed that Bill had earned the status of honorary cadet," DePuglio said. "As such, Bill needed a rank. Cadet/Command Sergeant Major was chosen because, in any military unit, the CSM pushes the troops to achieve maximum results through motivation and discipline. The CSM is also the caretaker of a unit, going the extra mile to ensure stability, good morale, and the positive welfare of the troops. Therefore, the qualities, traits, and duty responsibilities of a CSM are representative of Bill during his time at the Academy."

To mark the occasion, Culbertson was given an honorary diploma, a Saint Thomas Academy class ring, and athletic letters in the sports he coached or announced.

About Culbertson

Culbertson retired in 2008, after 40 years of service to Saint Thomas Academy as a teacher (Spanish, psychology, U.S. history and world history), dean of students, college counselor, wrestling and track coach, and football and hockey game announcer. He left an indelible mark on the school and its community through his work with every graduate of the Academy during that time – a number estimated to be about 5,000 boys. Students recognized him with three separate yearbook dedications, one in 1977, 1989 and 2003; and the school by naming the track in his honor: the William J. Culbertson Track. He continues to serve the Academy on a part-time basis in the development office.