

Michael D. Ziemke

“Coach Z”

Michael D. Ziemke, Class of 1972, born and raised in Vermilion, participated in Student Council and many sports including Football, Cross Country, Track, and Varsity Basketball, once scoring 21 points in twelve minutes.

In 1976, Michael graduated from Ashland College with a Bachelor of Education, member of Phi Alpha Theta, a History Honorary Society, and later completed a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Michael began his teaching career at Lorain Catholic as a Social Studies Teacher, Varsity Assistant Basketball coach, and Head Boys Tennis Coach — named Tennis Coach of the Year, City of Lorain and Lorain County for three years in a row.

In 1979, Michael returned to his hometown as teacher and “Coach Z” at Vermilion High School. As Chairman of the Social Studies Department, he organized the first Veterans Day Luncheon. His coaching career included Assistant Boys Varsity Basketball, Freshman Boys Basketball, Head Girls Basketball, Head Boys Track, and Head Boys and Girls Cross Country, during which time he won numerous Coach of the Year and Conference Championships. Coach Z emphasized hard work and perseverance, helping his athletes to achieve more than they thought possible, not only in sports, but in life.

Michael's service to the community continued as a General Contractor, owner of M. Ziemke LTD. Alongside his father, Edwin Ziemke, he helped build the Gazebo downtown Vermilion, now considered a community landmark. After retiring from teaching in 2007, he helped to revitalize the Mainstreet Harbortown Business District, and renovate numerous homes in Vermilion.