

## REMINISCENT TEACHER ESSAY

DONALD G. PAULSON  
Mobridge, South Dakota  
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During the Korean War, I was stationed at Ft. Riley, Kansas. After my basic training I stayed at Ft. Riley to train the new inductees. This position gave me great satisfaction, and I decided to become a teacher.

I used the GI bill to go to Augustana College in Sioux Falls to get my teaching degree in physics and math. I then taught at Mobridge High School for 38 years. After teaching for 3 years, I received a National Science Foundation Grant to attend the University of South Dakota where I earned a Masters Degree in physics and math.

After teaching for a number of years, I received great satisfaction from the recognition given me by former students. Some of these students recommended to the South Dakota School of Mine and technology to recognize me at their awards ceremony. I received an award at their awards day in 1971 and again in 1989. The two awards read "In recognition of Excellence in Teaching and Contributions to Student Life".

Another one of my students was one of two from South Dakota to be selected as a Presidential Scholar. One of his assignments was to write an essay entitled "Who Has Been the Greatest Influence in Your Education?" He chose me for that essay and I went to Washington, DC on his coattails. There I received a "Certification of Excellence" which was award to 100 teachers in the United States at Georgetown University. These teachers were selected by their students in the Presidential Scholars program. My student went on to get his Doctor's degree from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology.) One of the most exciting experiences on this trip was an invitation to the White House where President Reagan spoke to both the teachers and the students out on the lawn.

The greatest satisfaction as a teacher comes from the many former students who come back and say thank you. One gal came back and gave me a big hug and said "I never thought I would hug a math teacher." I also received a number of Teacher of the Year Golden Apple Awards from the senior classes.