Rain or shine, if there was supposed to be baseball practice or a game, Bill Gengenbach was there.

He served on Brady's recreation committee and was coordinator and coach for Brady's baseball program for 18 years.

He gave much more of his life than that to the village and the children who played baseball, though, according to friend Bryan Hecox.

Hecox spoke as a member of the Brady Volunteer Fire Department during a dedication and naming ceremony Sunday morning of the baseball field at Palmer Park.

Gengenbach was 52 years old when he died on Jan. 21, 2012.

The son of Lloyd and Delores Gengenbach, Bill graduated from Brady High School in 1977 and later from the University of Nebraska.

He had served many years on the Brady Volunteer Fire department and served one term on the village board of trustees.

"I was told that Delores once sold lemonade and popcorn out of the concession stand to raise money so lights could be put up on the field and the kids could play baseball at night," Hecox said. "This was a family very dedicated to the baseball program."

A plaque provided by the Brady fire department and a wooden sign bearing Bill Gengenbach's name were hung at the baseball field prior to the start of the annual Brady Days softball tournament on Sunday.

The park will remain Palmer Park but the field now carries the Gengenbach name.

Participants finished the dedication with a verse of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."