



George A. Stearns

August 9, 1952 - September 30, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

George A. Stearns

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – ANNA

135 West Vienna Street, Anna, Illinois

George A. Stearns, 73, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Carbondale, Illinois, George was a devoted husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend.

Known by many as “Mr. Fix It,” George leaves behind a legacy of love and a lifetime of beautiful craftsmanship. Best known for his carpentry and woodworking talents, George’s work touched countless lives. From unloading railroad ties and mining construction, to building homes with his brother, to his years at the cabinet shop in Murphysboro, wood stove installations, and constructing homes for and with his family, George’s skill and dedication were evident in every project. He liked to call himself a “jack of all trades, master of

none,” but those who knew him best would say he mastered them all, especially when it came to the art of loving well.

The work he treasured most, however, was the sixteen years he spent serving as site manager at Camp Cedar Point (Girl Scout Camp) at Little Grassy Lake. There, his craftsmanship and care created memories and spaces that continue to live on in the hearts of many.

George was preceded in death by many beloved family members, including his parents Mabel (Lipe) and Claud Stearns, siblings, nieces and nephews, and his son, Jason Stearns.

In his final months, George welcomed visitors from every chapter of his life. He chose to celebrate his life while still here and was deeply touched by the outpouring of love and support, and treasured the time spent with his surviving family and friends, both near and far.

He is survived by his loving wife, Linda (Hooker) Stearns along with his children Frankie (Stearns) and husband Todd Goro, George “Randy” Stearns and wife Erica Stearns, Seth Stearns and husband Nathan Kohl, and Adam Stearns and fiancée Mary Budnick. George took immense pride in his children, not only in the lives they built for themselves but also in the love and joy they brought into his own life.

George’s pride and joy included his surviving grandchildren: Liam, Mary, and Chloe Goro, along with Margot, Josey, and Caratacus Stearns; and he further blessed to be a great-grandfather to Dottie Goro.

George came from a large family, he is also lovingly remembered by his surviving uncle and aunt, brothers and sisters, many nieces and nephews, and brothers- and sisters-in-law who cherished him as their own.

George's legacy of love, laughter, and craftsmanship will live on through the lives he touched and the work of his hands that many will continue to cherish for years to come.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Hospice of Southern Illinois in honor of the exceptional end-of-life care George received.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna, Illinois is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

RS

“ Randy, Erica and the rest of the Stern family, am so very sorry to hear of your loss. I didn't know him but just what I learned from the things that Erica wrote and shared about him, He had to have been a great man. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very sad time in your lives .
Ruthann Soderholm (Erica's Nana)

Ruthann Soderholm - October 07, 2025 at 08:43 AM

LP

Randy and Erica and all the Stern family I Am Erica's Aunt Linda and got to meet Randy 's Dad and Mom when I was traveling through Illinois to meet my great niece Margo and nephew Carib. What an awesome Grandpa he was. I know he will be truly missed. Love Aunt Linda 💕💕

Linda Picard - October 08, 2025 at 08:48 AM

PC

“ George installed our wood burning stove for us about 5 years ago. He was a very warm and friendly person. He did a wonderful job and stayed and chatted with us for quite some time. Even though he was retired he came back the following year to show us how to clean it. We will always remember his kindness and generosity.



Paul and Ruth Carpenter - October 06, 2025 at 07:56 PM

TP

“ I'm so sorry to read about George. We've played many pool games throughout the years with George and he will be missed. RIH George.

Teresa and Raymond Pearl - October 06, 2025 at 07:00 AM

LN

“ I remember this man since I was a little girl. He watched me grow up & I grew up with his kids as well. We're all on Springer Ridge Rd. was more like family than neighbors. He will always be remembered & cherished in our hearts forever. Lisa K. Cavaness Newman!

Lisa K. Cavaness Newman - October 05, 2025 at 05:38 PM



“ George was a great man. When my Girl Scout troop stayed at CCP, he was always there. Always checking in on us to make sure things were going well. He always cared about the camp and its frequent visitors. I never went back after he left because it wasn't the same. You will be missed!!!! Alesia Fulmer Lipe

Alesia Lipe - October 05, 2025 at 09:36 AM