



## Dr. Homer Cissell

June 23, 1947 - March 11, 2024

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Homer Cissell

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – ANNA

135 West Vienna Street, Anna, Illinois

Born in Cairo and from the sleepy town of Karnak, Homer L. Cissell, Jr., travelled the globe throughout his lifetime and lived a life that many of us would feel fortunate to experience in a hundred years. Homer charged through life with sheer determination, persistence, and enthusiasm. He loved to learn yet was always humble regarding his diverse achievements.

Throughout his life, he has known many titles; Vietnam veteran, Dr. Cissell (PhD) college president, educator, administrator, winemaker, husband along with brother and father, grandfather, and tinkerer.

Homer, a true Renaissance man, had many interests – sailing on Lake Michigan and in the British Virgin Islands and hunting, fishing closer to home. He enjoyed complicated cooking and his quest for the perfect pie crust included lots of butter and on a healthier note he made his own pita bread and

hummus. The endeavor to create his homemade sushi included experimenting with many types of rice and the purchase of several Japanese knives.

As a carpenter, drywaller, electrician, and painter, he renovated their Queen Anne home in Lincoln IL (including his stained-glass creations) for which he received an award for Historic Renovation. This experience contributed to his ability to build their Frank Lloyd Wright inspired home (which also housed their winery). When asked where the blueprints were, he stated they were in his head, but he also illustrated some fine points by drawing on a napkin! At the winery, he loved to talk with visitors from Illinois and beyond, sharing knowledge about the history of wine and wine making.

In his earlier years he enjoyed fencing, golf, tennis, skiing and was a valued member of the competition shooting team. He loved nature and he and his wife enjoyed trail riding in southern Illinois and rode with the Wolf Creek Hunt. Although he left us much too soon and we could never have had enough time with him, his life was fully lived with adventures of traveling Europe with his equally adventuresome wife Bonnie. They indulged in the wines and foods of the world, while exploring the history, architecture, and culture of Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Portugal and more. Once his travels ceased, he was kept just as busy at home creating new projects, always planning for the next improvement, and when time allotted after his many long days of working into the night, he could settle down just enough to share the dinner table time with wife, children, and grandchildren, who all miss him dearly.

The cremation of Homer L. Cissell, Jr. has been personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to The Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge and/or The Humane Society of Southern Illinois.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna is in charge of Arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

RC

“ 1 file added to the album Homer Jr loved animals



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**Richard Cissell** - April 02, 2024 at 12:20 PM

LE

“ A donation has been made to the Humane Society in Homer's name by the directors, staff and members of the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance. We extend our deepest condolences to the family.



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**Lisa Ellis** - March 23, 2024 at 03:20 PM

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“ I don't know where to start Homer had a blessed soul. He was always ready to help anybody. Homer was a wealth of knowledge and advice. If he didn't know how to do something he'd find out and then tell you. Homer was kind of like everybody's dad or big brother. Homer was generous, kind and very patient. Homer put others ahead of himself an example of that was he kept his illness secretive so nobody would worry. I am sorry that I did not take the time to seek him out when I was over recently to say hello. That was Homer though, he was off being busy doing something as usual. Homer was amazing, he built everything with very little assistance and loved doing it. Whatever Homer built was done right and beautiful. I cannot say how much I will miss Homer. I was very lucky to have him as a friend and mentor. I am very grateful for all the help that he has given me through the years. God bless you Homer! ❤️🍒 Cherry Connolly

Cheryl Connolly - March 15, 2024 at 09:37 PM

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“ The Cissell Family became good friends of the Inman's while they were in Karnak. Dean was buddies with Homer in High School and learned guitar from his Dad. Richard (Richie) and Carl played on Khoury League teams together before the Cissell Family moved to Metropolis. Later Carl and Richard worked together for Ameren Energy. Talented and smart family. Homer will be missed.

Carl Inman - March 14, 2024 at 06:12 PM



“ Dearest Bonnie, We are sending all of our sympathy and love. May his beautiful memories bring you peace. Love, The Lynfred Family

Chris Anderson-Heller - March 14, 2024 at 03:19 PM