



## Howard "Coach" Cissell, Sr.

August 21, 1936 - February 19, 2017

Howard Lynn "Coach" Cissell, 80, passed away Sunday, February 19, 2017 at his home. He is survived by Janie Bianca Cissell of Snellville, GA, his loving wife of fifty-eight years, and many family members and friends: Howard, Jr. and Cynthia Cissell of Watson, LA (son and daughter in-law), John Cissell of Marietta, GA (son), Marty and Deanna Bennett of Jonesboro, AR (son in-law and daughter), Mickey and Sharron Cissell of Hot Springs, AR (brother and sister in-law), ten grandchildren, five great grandchildren and numerous others who loved him dearly.

Howard lived a life of accomplishment, commitment, and all-around decency. Born in Basset, Arkansas on August 21, 1936 to parents Levi and Genice Cissell, Howard graduated from Wilson High School where he excelled in football, basketball, and track. Upon graduation, he was awarded a scholarship from Arkansas State University to play football and run track. He continued to excel at Arkansas State and went on to play professionally for the Baltimore Colts and the Montreal Allouettes. He was elected into the Arkansas State University Hall of Honor and was selected to the "All Centennial Football Team". Although Howard said he never had a job, he accomplished much in his working life. When his playing days were over, Howard became a football coach, an activity that anointed him with the moniker of "Coach", The name most people reverently called him for the rest of his life. He coached successfully at the high school and college levels, finishing at the University of Iowa in 1981 before going to work for A.L.

Williams Insurance in Atlanta, Georgia, where he became a founding member of St. Olivier Plunkett Catholic Church in Snellville, Georgia. In business, Howard worked with the same spirit that he had carried with him through his coaching days. Above all else, Howard had a way of making everyone feel like they were his best friend. He inspired those he met with his positive nature, his loyalty, and his humor. For Howard, times of concern were not something to be frightened by but a chance to make another story- of stories, he had many. An example of Howard's personality shone through one day when a player walked into his office and told him that he wanted to speak with him directly. "Okay," Howard said with an air of concern. The boy said he was fed up with the two-a-day practices and wanted to quit the team. Disappointed but understanding, Howard told him that he actually agreed with the boy, two-a-days were a difficult time. They should probably make rules against it. It was hot outside and it would be a lot more fun to go fishing. However, with this being said, there was a slight issue. As much as he would love to let the boy quit, the deadline for doing such a thing had passed. In fact, last Wednesday was the final day to quit the team, and since the boy had not applied by the deadline, he would just have to stay on the team (for this season at least). The boy played for several weeks before realizing he could quit. He never did. When visiting with Howard, we all felt that we were in the presence of a great man, someone who had stepped down to Earth momentarily in order to show us what life could be like if we just had the right attitude. His loyalty and positive nature resonates through the fiber of his family and friends. He will continue to be with us in our hearts and minds, and we will continue to feel blessed for having such a great man in our lives. He made us better and made the world a better place. May he rest in peace. Funeral Mass will be held at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at St. Oliver Plunkett Catholic Church, Snellville, Georgia. Graveside service will be held at 3 Pm on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at Mississippi County Memorial Gardens in Osceola, Arkansas. The family will receive friends from 2:00- 3:00pm on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at Roller-Swift Funeral Home, Osceola,

Arkansas. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Arrangements by Tim Stewart Funeral Home 300 Simonton Road S.W. Lawrenceville, GA 30046. 770-962-3100. Please leave online condolences at [stewartfh.com](http://stewartfh.com).

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

FEB **22**. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Oliver Plunkett Catholic Church  
3200 Brooks Drive  
Snellville, Ga

## Visitation

FEB **25**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Roller-Swift Funeral Home  
2173 U.S Hwy 61  
Osceola, AR 72370

## Graveside

FEB **25**. 3:00 PM (CT)

Mississippi County Memorial Gardens  
Osecola, AR

# Tribute Wall



“ Howard "Coach" Cissell, Sr.

October 08, 2022 at 11:31 AM



“ I will remember the fun times we had as kids in Wilson,Ar. And the conversations we had thru the years, you always stayed in touch and I loved it when you still called me Faye Baby, a nick name since I was very young. Since now I am 75 it's even sweeter when one of my many cousins still call me that. I will miss you sweet cousin. Rest In Peace.

faye bullington - April 01, 2017 at 11:21 PM



“ I grew up thinking that Howard Lynn and Mickey were my cousins and was just devastated at age 7 or 8 when Mother told me they weren't really related to me.My parents, Clyde & Christine Chism, were good friends with Levi and Genice who allowed me to call them aunt and uncle. I remember thinking Howard Lynn was just he most handsome boy in Wilson. He helped the coach who taught swimming lessons at Wilson High indoor pool and all I could do was look at Howard. Never learned to swim that summer. Sympathy to Mickey and the rest of the family.  
Carolyn Chism Helms

Carolyn Chism Helms - February 25, 2017 at 12:45 PM

MB

“ *Mark and Karen Beaty purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Howard "Coach" Cissell, Sr..*



---

**Mark and Karen Beaty** - February 24, 2017 at 11:12 PM

SF

“ *Steve Wells and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Howard "Coach" Cissell, Sr..*



---

**Steve Wells and family** - February 24, 2017 at 04:44 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Howard "Coach" Cissell, Sr..*



---

February 24, 2017 at 01:12 PM

LG

“ *My condolences to family. I had the opportunity to play for coach when he was just starting his career. He was coach of district 2 A champs two years in a row. I had to visit his house after basketball practice in 10 th grade and promise him I would play football next year, so glad this man took time to talk to a young 15 year old boy, now I have so many fond memories because he took time for me.*

---

**Larry Gladden** - February 24, 2017 at 12:08 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Howard "Coach" Cissell, Sr..



February 24, 2017 at 11:49 AM



“ To All of the Cissell Family, my heartfelt condolences on the passing of Coach. Jon and I were roommates in college AND teammates on the fraternity football team. To This Day, No one was a better player than Jon Cissell. I remember one time, During the Game, after Jon scored his 4th touchdown, someone said My Goodness, where did that guy get so much talent. Another guy who knew, said simply, From His Dad!! I have one other memory I'll share. Jon and I went to spend the summer with Coach and Mrs. Cissell. I have never met a man who made me feel more welcome in his home than Howard Cissell did, even though we DID drive Mrs. Cissell Nuts with our Frequent trips to the University of Georgia.... May Coach Rest In Peace

Glenn Foster - February 24, 2017 at 09:40 AM



“ Dear Janie and family,  
My name is Greg Duckworth, I am Judy and Ray Duckworth's son. I met Mr. Russel through my mom at work when I was in high school. He was such a nice and caring man. He always knew when I would be there to see mom and insist on talking to me about everything especially football. I always enjoyed talking with him. Just wanted to say I am very sorry to hear of his passing.  
Sincerely,  
Greg Duckworth

Greg Duckworth - February 24, 2017 at 09:15 AM

JH

“ Dear Jon, Howard, DeDe & all,  
I'm so sorry for your loss & wish I could be there Sat.  
I lost my dad many years ago but I bet those 2 Pike brothers are  
renewing their fraternal bonds again. My dad spoke so highly of  
him.

*I still root for the Hawkeyes just because of Jon's stories about his  
dad's time there.*

*He leaves much more than any inheritance; he leaves a legacy in  
the dear wife & amazing children he helped raise.*

*YITB,  
Falwell*

---

**Jerry Halsell** - February 24, 2017 at 12:02 AM

JB

“ Great job on the obituary. I only met the man everyone called  
"Coach" a couple of times, but you describe the person I remember  
very well. My hugs and prayers go out to Coach's family. You are his  
legacy.

---

**John Baker** - February 23, 2017 at 05:09 PM

JY

“ So sorry to hear about coach. He is a great man an teacher of life.  
Coach was my football coach at Wynne high school. He new what  
to say to build you up if you were having a bad time. I will never  
forget this man. Coach will live forever in my heart an mind. Now he  
can coach Gods team to victory. Rest In Peace Coach.

---

**Jerry Young** - February 23, 2017 at 11:54 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Howard "Coach" Cissell, Sr..*



---

February 23, 2017 at 11:45 AM



“ *Dear Janie and Family, Ray and I were so sorry to see Howard's obituary in the paper this morning. I always liked working for Howard and Ray has memories of enjoying talking football with him. Howard was a good man and will be missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Our love, Judy and Ray Duckworth*

---

**Judy and Ray Duckworth** - February 23, 2017 at 09:28 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family! The Cissell's lived two doors down from my family on Ford Street in Osceola. Coach saved my life!! While pregnant with me, my Mom was babysitting when it was time to feed Howard, Jr. She didn't have a clue about bottles!! She kept trying to make the hole in the nipple bigger to get the milk into a crying baby. Coach got home soon after....sized up the situation and removed the plastic disk from the nipple. No more crying baby! My Mom learned how to work baby bottles and I was saved. Thanks, Coach!!!! May God keep you and your family in the palm of His hand --- Sara Garrett Rose, daughter of Jim and Margaret Garrett*

---

**Sara Garrett Rose** - February 23, 2017 at 07:36 AM

CP

“ I was so shocked to hear of Howard's passing. I had just talked to Janie & Howard last Thursday and he helped Janie & I remember Ace bandage because & I were having a senior moment. Howard was a wonderful friend and I know he will be missed by all. Carolyn Drew Province



Carolyn Drew Province - February 23, 2017 at 03:44 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Howard "Coach" Cissell, Sr..



February 22, 2017 at 12:45 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Howard "Coach" Cissell, Sr..



February 22, 2017 at 12:37 PM



“ 51 files added to the album LifeTributes



---

**Tim Stewart Funeral Home** - February 22, 2017 at 10:44 AM



“ *It's with a heavy heart that I send this message...thoughts and prayers go out to the family..I will be thinking of you guys today and talking about Coach on today's show.*

*Wally Jackson*

---

**Wally Jackson** - February 22, 2017 at 10:41 AM

BS

“ Although it has been 36 years since I last heard Coach Cissell's colorful motivating comments on the field, I have never forgotten him. I have caught myself several times repeating those same comments to my players.

*Thank you Coach Ciss for believing in me and providing me the support I needed to be successful on and off the field.*

*Your leadership and love helped develop many boys into men.*

*Rest In Peace Coach.*

*Bryan Skradis Iowa Hawkeyes*

---

**Bryan Skradis** - February 21, 2017 at 06:53 PM

MD

“ Mark & Kim Dopson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Howard "Coach" Cissell, Sr..



---

**Mark & Kim Dopson** - February 21, 2017 at 05:09 PM