



Bill Anderson a.k.a. Cousin Carl

December 14, 1940 - December 18, 2020

Billy Ray “Bill” Anderson, 80, – also affectionately known as “Cousin Carl” – passed away December 18, 2020, following a visit with his children. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 56 years, Elizabeth Ann (Crowell) Anderson.

Bill was born December 14, 1940, near Forman, Arkansas to Eloise “Snow” and John D. Anderson. He grew up loving radio and country music. As was the custom in the '40s, radio provided both information and entertainment, especially to farm families like the Andersons in the Red River bottoms of Oklahoma.

Bill’s first paying job in radio began as a senior in high school when he worked part-time at the Dequeen, Arkansas station. His first full-time position was at KBEL in Idabel, Oklahoma. His talent earned him the Country Music DJ of the Year Award in 1961 at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.

His long career as “Cousin Carl” started in the mid-'60s when he created the hillbilly character for a start-up radio station in Holdenville, Oklahoma. Bill did a morning show in the character’s hayseed voice and then switched to his normal professional radio voice to read the news. No one in the community even realized that Bill Anderson and Cousin Carl were one and the same.

Bill briefly stepped away from radio to work in television news in Dodge City, Kansas but was soon called back to Holdenville for another decade as Cousin Carl. He also learned to fly and started a side business flying pipeline patrol checking for leaks for Kerr McGee Oil. That gig soon morphed into crop dusting and he moved to Texas where he owned and operated an agriculture spray business.

However, his love of radio never waned, and he left Texas in 1977 for a stint at KDXE in Little Rock, Arkansas, before moving to Southeast Missouri in 1979. There he spent the rest of his career, first at KSIM, then KMIS, and finally fulfilled a life-long dream by starting his own station- KWKZ 106.1 in Cape Girardeau. Forever a fan of traditional country and

western swing, Bill chose to focus his character show on the music and artists that he knew personally from his years in the industry.

Over the next three decades, Cousin Carl became the most recognized and popular show in the Heartland, and in 2010, Bill received a coveted Addy Award for his talent. Bill worked closely for years with his daughter, Susan (aka "the Girl), on and off the air and enjoyed promoting her singing career. He retired in 2019 due to health concerns.

Survivors include his children: Dianne (Mark) Mathis, Susan (Arnold) Bell, John (Mindy) Anderson; grandchildren Sydney and Chase Eubank, Kirsten (Jonathan) Holley, Cody and Taylor Anderson, Weston and Waverly Mathis; great-grandchildren Kami Eubank and Teagan Anderson; His sister, Judith Davis, brother-in-law Ray (Shelly) Crowell, nephew Michael Anderson who lived with him in recent years, niece and nephew: Lisa and John, great-niece and nephews: Natalie (Tony), John Louis and Joseph, extended family and many other friends who he regarded as family members.

A small private family service is planned at Ford and Sons Funeral Home with the Rev. Eric McGruder officiating, and music conducted by Mindy Anderson.

Pallbearers include Jonathan Holley, Aaron Moore, John Davis, Jack Davis, Jacob Valdivia, and J.W. Henderson. Honorary pallbearers include Ted Eftink, Jeff Sutton, Dennis Ward, Steve Decker, Dale Forbis, Rick Young, Bob Dolley, and Butch Koeppel.

The family invites everyone who knew him, whether as Bill or Cuz, to join a celebration of his life being planned on Pure Country C106.1. Also, please share your memories on the C106.1 Facebook page or at <http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com>

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to Safe House for Women, Inc.; Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri or Humane Society of Southeast Missouri.

Cemetery

Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum

2315 Highway 61 N

Cape Girardeau, MO, 63701

Comments



“ Alfred Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Bill Anderson a.k.a. Cousin Carl



Alfred Gilbert - February 19 at 06:58 PM



“ I remember listen to Bill from 7:00 to 11:00 everyday Monday through Friday it's at rodeo thought that was the only way I got George Jones

Alfred Gilbert - February 19 at 06:57 PM



“ Decker purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Bill Anderson a.k.a. Cousin Carl.



Decker - December 25, 2020 at 12:01 PM



“ We were blessed to get to know Cuz through Bob Tucker and our business "Pierce Supercenter" after having listened to him on the radio for years. He was great to work with, always had a smile and a kind word. His "Farm Show" was the highlight for us, our family and customers each year. Prayers for you his family as you greave the loss of a loved one. Tim and Ilene Pierce

Tim and Ilene Pierce - December 24, 2020 at 08:09 AM



“ I listened to Cousin Carl on the radio many hours. A good Christian man. I know you will miss him. May God comfort you in the days ahead. Love and Prayers, Clairene Priest

Clairene Priest - December 23, 2020 at 02:24 PM



“ To the family, I am just hearing this and am SO Sorry. I have tried to call him this year and a week or two ago, but no answer or voice mail any of these times. I may have an old number.

Please know I'm praying for you all Diane, Susan and John.

Love, hugs and prayers,

Wanda Bellers

Wanda Bellers, friend and partner employ - December 23, 2020 at 08:38 PM



“ I am a friend and past employee.

Wanda Bellers, friend and partner employ - December 23, 2020 at 08:39 PM



“ I grew up in Southeast Misouri, and anyone in this area who didn't know Cousin Carl listened to the wrong stations. Prayers and peace for the family.

Renee Gibson - December 22, 2020 at 12:58 PM



“ Bill Anderson Cousin Carl he was great man. I listern to him every day on the radio. He I felt like a new him. Me him went threw lots of things together. I lost my dad around time he lost Elizabeth and had Heath issues like he had. And he help me get threw death of my father.

Being on the radio. That's reason why I miss him alot. He is with Elizabeth again.

JanetFuller

Janet Fuller - May 23 at 11:45 AM



“ Carol & Randy George lit a candle in memory of Bill Anderson a.k.a. Cousin Carl



Carol & Randy George - December 21, 2020 at 11:36 AM



“ I was fortunate to be part of his show a few times...great person, wonderful personality, and a true pleasure to be around.

Cousin Carl, as many knew him, will be missed by many.

May God provide the peace, comfort, and understanding to the family at this time and always.

Ken Pemberton, Jr.

Kenneth C Pemberton Jr - December 21, 2020 at 08:58 AM



“ A great man received his wings this weekend. He was a very great man. He will be missed y all that knew him. R. I. P Cousin Carl

Brenda Rushing - December 20, 2020 at 03:09 PM



“ Sorry to hear about your dad he was a good friend and will miss hearing his on the radio

Ronald Browning - December 20, 2020 at 12:20 PM



“ Dear John and Diane,
My heart aches for you, Bill was such a great man and a big sweetheart. Loved how he kept everything “real” the way our lives should be.
He will be truly missed by many. Love and prayers for all your family. I'm sure he's happy to seeMom!
Vicky (Special Olympics)



vicky Dannemueller - December 20, 2020 at 08:56 AM



“ John and I are devastated to hear of Bill's passing. John knew him much better than I did, but I know he was a dear, kind man and will be missed by many people. Our sincere condolences to his family and friends. Prayers for all of you. God give all of you comfort at this very difficult time.

Deborah & John Clifton - December 20, 2020 at 12:07 AM



“ Getting to go to WBAP. Do the Bill Shell with him

A w sledge - December 19, 2020 at 09:49 PM