



## Richard Vine

December 10, 1925 - May 14, 2008

Richard David Vine, obituary

On May 14, 2008, Richard David Vine died in Chestertown, Maryland, following a short illness. He was a resident of Heron Point.

Mr. Vine was born on December 10, 1925 in New York. His parents were George Henry Vine and Mary J. Vine née Dooley.

A retired Foreign Service Officer, Mr. Vine served as Jimmy Carter's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Switzerland from 1979 to 1981.

Prior to his nomination as ambassador, Mr. Vine's tours of duty abroad included stints in Germany, Israel, France, Belgium – and Switzerland, where he held the post of Deputy Head of Mission from 1969 through the early '70s.

After his return to Washington D.C. from Switzerland in 1981, Ambassador Vine became Director of the State Department's Bureau of Refugee Programs, but shortly afterwards was nominated Director General of the Paris-based Atlantic Institute for International Affairs.

In 1984, the empty premises of the Institute were bombed and totally

demolished one night by the left-wing guerrilla group 'Action directe'. Informed, however, by French police that he personally was also on the terrorist group's hit list, Mr. Vine decided to retire and returned to the United States to live in the Chestertown area.

Mr. Vine, who received his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and his graduate degree from Yale, was the author of many articles and editor of several books on foreign affairs. A world traveler, he was a talented linguist who spoke fluent French and German.

He was also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

His hobbies included gardening, bridge and bird-watching.

During his retirement, he farmed, bred exotic birds and ran a bird clinic on his property. He sat on several boards, and was active in Chestertown's Washington College Lifelong Learning and Mentoring programs.

Mr. Vine was married to Dawn Decies Vine née Vessa, who survives him. The couple had two children: Gail Mangold-Vine of Geneva, Switzerland, and Michael David Vine of Washington D.C.

To celebrate Mr. Vine's life, a mass will be held on Tuesday, May 20 at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Chestertown. Burial is to take place at 2 p.m. on the same day at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Kensington (Silver Spring), Maryland.

In lieu of sending flowers, please make donations in Richard Vine's name to The Heron Point Moore and Tobey Scholarship Fund. Make checks out to Heron Point, and mail to Heron Point, 501 E. Campus Avenue, Chestertown, MD 21620.

Arrangements by Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home  
Chestertown, MD [www.fhnfuneralhome.com](http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Service

MAY **20**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church  
508 High Street  
Chestertown, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Vine*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Richard Vine*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Richard Vine*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Dear Dawn, Gail and Michael:*

*I was saddened to read of Dick's death. I remember him vividly -- though mainly only from conversations en route to and from your home for baby sitting jobs in Tel Aviv. In those days, his passion was bridge, as I recall.*

*With sympathy and warmest wishes to you all.*

*Stan Heginbotham##imported-begin##Stanley J.  
Heginbotham##imported-end##*

May 27, 2008 at 01:23 PM