

## Guy A. Renzaglia

### FOUNDER

1. Born to Renaldo and Filomena (nee-Alesandrelli) Renzaglia on Jan. 14, 1918 in Minnesota (Virginia) some 65 miles north of Duluth.
2. Attended George Washington University in D, C. on a football scholarship from 1935 - 1939. Was honored to G.W.U's Hall of Fame in 1963 - BA. Degree.
3. Continued Education
  - a. M.Ed., University of Minnesota, 1941
  - b. M. A., University of Minnesota, 1943
  - c. Ph. D., University of Minnesota, 1952 in counseling psychology.
4. U.S. Army Air Corps - 1941- 1946- as civilian instructor and officer. Graduated first academically from Officer Candidate School in 1942.
5. Various professorial and service positions at ;
  - a. University of Minnesota — 1941,1946 and 1952 — 1953
  - b. University of Montana — 1948 -1949
  - c. University of Missouri — 1953 — 1955
  - d. Southern Illinois University — 1955 — 1978
6. Professor Emeritus now at S.I. U. where I;
  - a. Founded and developed the Rehabilitation Institute, a graduate unit training professionals to teach, service and do research with exceptional populations. Now most renowned.
  - b. Geld numerous national, state, and regional offices in professional organizations.
  - c. Also published a number of papers.
  - d. Honored by establishment of an annual “Guy A. Renzaglia Lecture Series” at S.I.U.-C.
  - e. Ditto for the Guy A. Renzaglia annual scholarships.
  - f. A member of other awards from Professional groups and associations.
7. After brief stint as Director of Touch of Nature, began a growing dream. With two others, we started Alto Vineyards and in Spring 1982 we began hand planting 71f2 acres of hybrid grapes. Trial and error was our teacher, the next year we added 3 more acres. Three of the varieties were not hardy enough and they were replaced.

8. Selling our grapes to others didn't pay-off, so despite the doomsayers, we opened a winery on a blizzard day in December 1988. Curious folks bought us out in 1 or 2 days. The same happened in March, 1989.
9. Since then, we have encouraged others to grow grapes by providing advice, consultation and an abundance of clones from our grapes. It has paid off in many ways, and today Illinois is once again taking its rightful place in the grape-wine industry.
10. As President of the IL Grape Grower's and Vintner's Association in the mid 1990s, we were able to lobby successfully legislatures, universities and organizations to enact a law that established the Grape And Wine Resources Council, a recognized body of the state to promote and develop the industry. It is housed at S.I.U. -C, but staff is also collaboratively placed at the University of Illinois.
11. In recognition of our pioneering and state-wide efforts a number of awards has followed, namely.
  - a. The 1<sup>st</sup> annual "Guy A. Renzaglia Award" was established in 2001 by the "[L Grape Grower's and Vintner's Association". Given to a person who significantly enhances the grape and wine industry.
  - b. The College of Agriculture at SIU-C tendered me with the "Service to Agriculture Award"
  - c. "Shawnee College" with the viticulturist of the year award.
  - d. "IL Grape Grower's and Vintner's Association" last year gave me its outstanding promotion and service award
12. Greatest claim to fame
  - a. An accepting and nurturing wife of 55 years.
  - b. Seven great kids and their spouses.
  - c. 17 wonderful grandkids.
  - d. An Italian heritage.