



# Howard "Gus" J. Keefer

JUL 24, 1938 - FEB 16, 2026



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## Howard "Gus" J. Keefer

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**H**oward J. "Gus" Keefer, 87, of Clinton passed away Monday, February 16, 2026 at his home.

Funeral Services will be 12:00 pm (Noon), Saturday, February 28th 2026 at the Clinton Chapel Snell-Zornig Funeral Homes & Crematory. Burial will be in Clinton Lawn Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Randy Cook, Scott Reed, Dave Clark, Joe Hayes, David Barker and Brett Cram. Honorary pallbearers are Bob Krajnovich and Charlie Smith. Military honors will be conducted by the United States Marine Corps and the Clinton AMVETS. Visitation will be from 10:00 am until the service time at the funeral home. Online condolences may be expressed by visiting his obituary at <https://www.snellzornig.com>.

Howard Joseph Keefer, "Gus", was born July 24, 1938 in Clinton, Iowa, the son of Jack Hollis and Nellie May (Lingle) Keefer. He married Marcia Lynn Sloppy on April 22, 1961 in Clinton. He attended Lyons High School and Clinton High School. He proudly served in the United States Marine Corps, enlisting when he was 17 years old. During his time in the Marines, he earned his GED. After 3 years in the Marines, he lived in Los Angeles for a year. He then moved to Clinton to work at Lord Baltimore Press for 4 years and joined Amalgamated Lithographers Local 90. Then on to DeSaulniers & Company Printing in Moline. He then worked for Allen Printing until the great flood of 1965. In May 1965 he worked in the back shop of Domestic Plumbing in Clinton until he began his apprenticeship 1973. At that time Gus became a member of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 387 in Davenport, IA. He turned out as a Journeyman in 1976. He worked for several signatory contractors across the Midwest, traveling to support his family during the early 1980's recession.

Gus was elected to the Executive Board at Local 387. He was elected as a delegate to the UA National Convention. At Local 387 he was appointed as a delegate to Clinton Labor Congress AFL-CIO, the Political Action Committee and Organizing Committee. After a merger between Local 387 and Rock Island Local 25 in 1998 he became a member of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 25 until his retirement in 2000.



## Obituary

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Gus was a Trustee to Clinton Labor Congress AFL-CIO, delegate to Iowa AFL-CIO, trade unionist, staunch Democrat and Clinton County Democrat Hall of Fame inductee. He encouraged folks to exercise their right to vote, "shop local", buy "made in USA" and "buy Union". He was a member of St. Stephens, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Amvets, Moose, Elks and Eagles Club all in Clinton.

He enjoyed fishing, taking car rides with his wife Marcia, trying his luck at the casinos and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife Marcia Keefer of Clinton; two children: Anita (Joseph) Hayes of Clinton and David (Peggy) Keefer of Clinton; grandchildren: Audrey (Brett) Cram, Nina (David) Barker and Kallyn, Emersyn and Griffen Keefer; great grandchildren: Oliver Cram, Amelia Cram and Levi (Abi) Barker; great great grandchildren: Ashton and Lincoln Barker; and many nieces and nephews.

Gus was preceded in death by his parents, siblings: Jack Keefer, Virginia Pray, Kay Hagen and Gilbert Goldensohn and grandson Chad Hayes.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to: The Jerry O'Leary Scholarship Fund or Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House



# Events

**Howard "Gus" J. Keefer**

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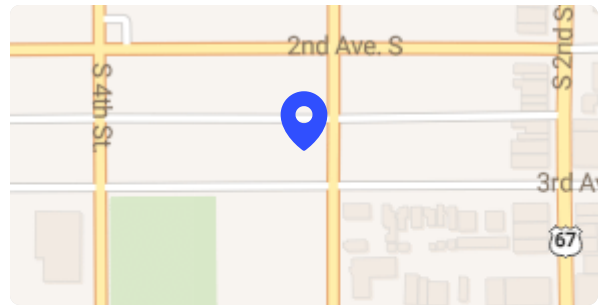
## Visitation

**Saturday**, February 28, 2026

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CT

**Snell-Zornig Funeral Home & Crematory, Clinton**

302 Third Avenue South, Clinton IA 52732



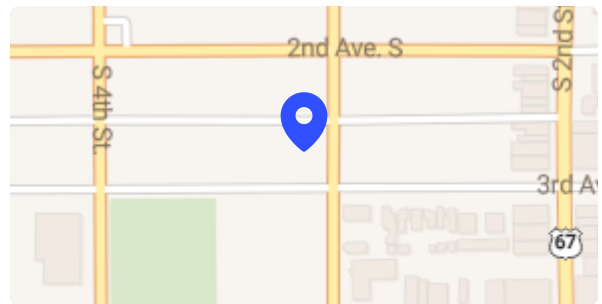
## Funeral Service

**Saturday**, February 28, 2026

12:00 PM CT

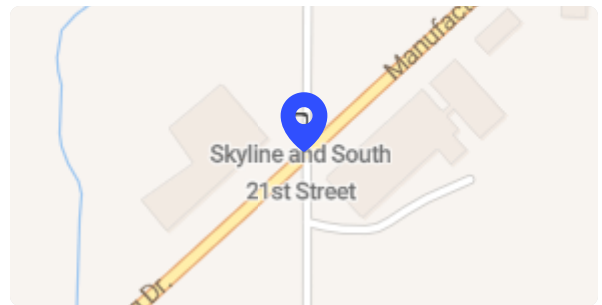
**Snell-Zornig Funeral Home & Crematory, Clinton**

302 Third Avenue South, Clinton IA 52732



## Cemetery Details

**Clinton Lawn Cemetery**  
2100 Manufacturing Drive, Clinton IA 52732





## Tribute Wall

**Howard "Gus" J. Keefer**

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GM

**Grace Merkel** posted:

My deepest condolences and prayers are with you guys during this hard time , i was extremely blessed to be able to take care of Gus when I was still working with Good Samaritan agency I will always cherish his kind words

February 26 at 2:31 PM

RK

**Rich Kallberg** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Keefer family.



February 26 at 10:48 AM

RP

**Richard Pike** posted:

Gus was my first boss I went to work for him in the shop at Domestic Plumbing when I was 15 years old. He was always there when I needed help and almost never said no. He made working something I always looked forward to and he taught me to drive a stick. I have way too many great memories of those years to try and sort them out and share them knowing I would forget some and keep starting over for days and day.

February 22 at 9:51 PM

S

**Scott Reed** posted:

Uncle Gus & Godfather, Sooo many memories flooding my thoughts. Saturday morning fishing in Sabula, hunting nightcrawlers at the Clinton Courthouse in the rain and in the dark, playing Canasta and you holding so many cards so you can wait to lay them ALL down, getting the "fever" and going to Crazy Acres, taking me to the Tall Corn Motel when I turned legal to drink and "showing me where all the action was" LOL; not, traveling to Dallas to pay respects where Kennedy was shot, having a fishing contest at a undeveloped pond in Des Moines, you wearing a Dallas Cowboys outfit when they played the Pittsburgh Steelers in the Super Bowl "Go Steelers!", waking Anita and I up at 3am on a Saturday to tell us how much you love us, telling tall stories with a smile on your face, growing tomatoes in your yard, throwing a GREAT party at the Cost-A-Lot, always getting me to go to Sunday school and church, but most of all the love you showed me when we were together. I will miss you terribly!!! Say hi to mom, dad and Grandpa and Grandma Sloppy. I will see you in time! Love, Scott

February 20 at 8:35 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Cynthia Walker** posted:

My dad always spoke highly of Gus. Through him I always knew he was a good person and hard worker. Thank you Gus for always being a friend to my dad. So sorry for your loss Dave.

February 20 at 6:35 PM



**Penny Anderson** posted:

Gus was a wonderful man, always had good stories to tell! Im grateful to have had the chance to take care of him. Prayers to the family, he will surely be missed. Much Love, Penny Anderson

February 19 at 1:08 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Howard "Gus" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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