



Clair A. Koppenhaver

March 3, 1937 - November 16, 2025

Clair A. Koppenhaver, known in the community as "Koppy," 88, of Gratz, passed away peacefully on November 16, 2025, at UPMC Harrisburg Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Gratz, PA, on March 3, 1937. Clair was the husband of Bernice (Erdman) Koppenhaver, formerly of Klingerstown, PA. Together they shared 66 years of marriage and happily celebrated their anniversary every year on Valentine's Day.

Those who had the pleasure of meeting Clair knew that his favorite pastime was telling stories. He made friends wherever he went and could converse with anyone about his tile work, his family, and John Deere tractors. He is remembered in the community for his green van - putting on thousands of miles just in their small town. He is also remembered for being the best neighbor - willing to give the shirt off his back for anyone in need.

Koppy loved going to the family hunting cabin with friends and relatives. He enjoyed playing cards and making memories with his favorite people. He loved working around his homestead, watching birds, and tinkering in his garage with his tools, his van, and tractors. Clair loved dogs - it seemed every one he owned or met immediately loved him, too, for the constant attention and treats he gave.

Clair was a member of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union for 63

years. He worked proudly for Interstate Tile and Mantel. He could tell you every location he laid tile throughout his entire career. He also worked for the Gratz Borough for several years as the Parks and Recreation Assistant Administrator. Kopyy was a hardworking and very active man. He is respected by many for his work ethic and his ability to work around the home until his very last days.

Kopyy was a lifetime member of the Gratz Area Fire Company. He was also a member of the Gratz Ambulance Association, Gratz Arbor Day Committee, and Gratz Parks and Recreation. He loved his community and its people deeply.

Clair is survived by his loving wife, Bernice (Erdman) Koppenhaver; his three sons, Terry (Meg), Dave (Bev), and Keith (Michelle) Koppenhaver; and his daughter, Lisa (Denny) Lenker. He also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews that he loved dearly. He now watches over his six grandchildren - Janine, Dustin (Autumn), Tyler, Drake (McKaila), Cameron (Travis), and Lea - and his most recent pride and joy, his great-grandson, Hudson Clair. He also leaves behind many friends and neighbors who made his life full. In Heaven, Clair joined his father, Clair A. Koppenhaver Sr.; his mother, Martha M. Bixler; and his grandmother, Kate Koppenhaver, who raised him and his siblings after his mother's passing. He also joined his siblings William, Dorothy, Joan, and Leroy.

If you knew and loved Clair, the family invites you to come to the Koppenhaver residence in Gratz, at your convenience, to reminisce with Bernice and family about the stories and memories you shared with him.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, November 29, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the James A. Reed Funeral Home in Pillow. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Gratz Area Fire Company and Gratz Parks and Recreation.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

James A. Reed Funeral Home
137 Market St
Pillow, PA 17080

Tribute Wall

SD

“ Clair and my Bob always looked forward to running into one another for the opportunity for some good-hearted ribbing. Bob sometimes would reroute his bicycle rides to stop when he saw Clair sitting outside, looking forward to the exchanges and to learn of local history from Clair ('like an encyclopedia,' Bob used to say). As an occasional spectator of the exchanges, I must confess, sometimes my face would hurt from laughing and smiling at their antics. I was shocked to hear that "Koppy" had passed a few days after my Bob, and I can't help but think the two of them laughing together and sharing stories. My sincerest condolences to Bernice and family for your loss. Clair's 'bigger than life' personality will be sorely missed.

Sherry Stoudt DeTurk - December 18, 2025 at 11:59 AM

KW

“ So sorry to hear of Clair's passing I'm sure he will visit with Chappy and Shirley up there along with so many others I have a lot of good memories of the Koppenhaver family and condolences to you all 🙏
❤️

Karen Wiest - November 23, 2025 at 03:29 PM

JH

“ Sending prayers and condolences to the Koppenhaver family in their loss and sorrow. May you cherish all of your special memories, may he forever be in your heart.

Jane Hand - November 22, 2025 at 07:03 PM

RL

“ *Lifting up the family in prayer, may the memories you hold in your heart comfort you at this very sad time. Rod & Sue Leitzel*



Rod and Sue Leitzel - November 22, 2025 at 11:07 AM



“ *My dad, Donnie Wiest, worked with Koppy early in their tile-setting career. When I told dad of Koppy's passing, he said "my buddy Koppy." There were many stories both told. Our condolences to the family. Prayers.*

Jill Wiest - November 22, 2025 at 05:05 AM

LN

“ *We are so sorry to hear about Koppy's passing. We have such wonderful memories throughout the years we shared with the Koppenhaver family. Our condolences to Bernice & family. Terry & Linda Neiswender*

Linda Neiswender - November 21, 2025 at 01:33 PM

PA

“ *Clair has been a good friend and neighbor for most of our lives. He will be missed. Paul and Carrie Adams and family.*

Paul and Carrie Adams - November 21, 2025 at 10:56 AM

ML

“ *My condolences, Koppenhavers. I didn't know your husband/father, but I know he raised some awesome kids.*

Mike & Julie Leitzel - November 21, 2025 at 10:03 AM

SL

“ Suzette & Glenn Leitzel lit a candle in memory of Clair A. Koppenhaver



Suzette & Glenn Leitzel - November 21, 2025 at 09:17 AM

KW

“ We were so sorry to hear of Koppys passing. Although, I didn't have the pleasure of meeting him, I felt I really did know him, as our daughter Stacey spoke very highly of him. Stacey , Jeff, and of course Baxter looked forward to seeing Kopyy on their daily walks. I know they have many memories to treasure of him as I'm sure you as his family do too. I pray for God to wrap his loving arms around you for comfort and peace. I know Kopyy will be missed by all. Treasure all the memories. RIP Kopyy.



Karen and Mark Wilson - November 21, 2025 at 08:14 AM

CH

“ So sorry for your loss. Praying for his family.
🙏



Cathy Haley - November 20, 2025 at 06:34 PM

TM

“ Tim Matter lit a candle in memory of Clair A. Kopenhagenver



Tim Matter - November 20, 2025 at 03:55 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clair A. Kopenhagenver.



November 20, 2025 at 03:55 PM

SC

“ Sterman Masser Family of Companies planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Clair A. Kopenhagenver.

Sterman Masser Family of Companies - November 20, 2025 at 03:55 PM

LF

“ Love, Your Children and Teen Family purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Clair A. Kopenhagenver.



Love, Your Children and Teen Family - November 20, 2025 at 01:20 PM