



Raymond Kenneth (Gus) Gustafson

October 24, 1927 - February 5, 2021

Raymond Kenneth Gustafson (Gus) of Crystal, formerly of the Dassel area, passed away comfortably on Friday, February 5th, 2021 at age 93, holding the hands of his children, Annie, Bobby and Jeannie. We love you Papa!

Raymond was born on October 24th, 1927 in Dassel, Minnesota to Oscar and Myrtle (Wennerstrom) Gustafson. Raymond was proud of his Swedish Heritage. He was stoic, responsible and a hard worker. His role as a family anchor developed as a young boy when he helped his family with chores on the farm. He remained close to his older brother and his five younger sisters his entire life. At age 17, Raymond moved with his family to Minneapolis and began his 45-year career for Burlington (Great) Northern Railroad, first, outside as a Stevedore, then as a Foreman and finally he happily worked his way "inside" as a Car Orderer. His career was interrupted once to serve in the United States Army where he learned auto mechanics, marching, and shooting.

In retirement, Raymond enjoyed fishing, hunting (pheasant and deer), watching sports (especially the Lynx, Gophers basketball, the Vikings, the Twins or any sport his family participated in), fixing his house or car, caring for his Grandchildren and playing Bingo. He knew everything that was happening by keeping in daily contact with his five sisters and family. He relished in finding a good bargain. He took immense pride in maintaining his

independence.

Raymond will be greatly missed by his children, Ann May (Scott Booth), Bob Gustafson, Jean Reed; 6 grandchildren, Nathan and Elizabeth May, Caleb and Ellen Gustafson (Nick Geier), Nora and Clara Reed; siblings, Harold Gustafson (Elvera), Shirley Peterson, Diane Toner (Don); Brother-in-law, Ron Sanford; and by many nieces, nephews, friends and relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar and Myrtle Gustafson; his sisters, Marian Stevens, Delores Sanford and Marlys Iliff; and Brother-in-laws, Merton Iliff and Harold Peterson.

A private family funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Johnson Funeral Home in Dassel with the Rev. Keith Carlson officiating. There will be a one-hour visitation prior to the service at the Johnson Funeral Home in Dassel. (For those who wish to attend the visitation or will be attending the service, mask and social distancing will be required.) Interment will be held at the Lake Arvilla Cemetery in rural Dassel at a later date.

Cemetery Details

Lake Arvilla Cemetery

Dassel, MN 55325

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 13. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Johnson Funeral Home
PO Box 1 611 N 2nd Street
Dassel, MN 55325
(320) 275-3381
jfhdassel@spectrum.net

Tribute Wall

AM

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



ann may - February 28, 2021 at 09:56 PM

AM

“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



ann may - February 28, 2021 at 09:36 PM

RM

“ Rene Miller lit a candle in memory of
Raymond Kenneth (Gus) Gustafson



Rene Miller - February 28, 2021 at 02:49 PM

RM

My heartfelt condolences go out to my cousins, Ann, Bob, Jean, and the entire family of Ray.

I remember as a child, Rays family came for a visit in Oregon. My dad & Ray love to fish 🐟. They both got up early one morning to go fishing, just as they were putting their gear in the car, and had come back to say their, “goodbyes”, to their spouses, a couple of neighborhood kids got in the car ... a 55 Chevy and drove it away, up the hill.

My dad called the police 🚔♀, and it was found within the hour. They were a little late for the fish, but they were soon underway, and ended up having a good day of fishing 🎣!

The times I saw Ray as a child, he was always good to me. He always had a Big Smile, and a laugh or two. And who could forget those distinctive, beautiful, bushy eyebrows?

God Bless you Ray. You were a good soul. I know you will be very missed. 🙏❤

Rene Miller - February 28, 2021 at 03:16 PM

RM

RM

Rene Miller

27 minutes ago

My heartfelt condolences go out to my cousins, Ann, Bob, Jean, and the entire family of Ray.

I remember as a child, Rays family came for a visit in Oregon. My dad & Ray love to fish 🎣. They both got up early one morning to go fishing, just as they were putting their gear in the car, and had come back to say their, "goodbyes", to their spouses, a couple of neighborhood kids got in the car ... a 55 Chevy and drove it away, up the hill.

My dad called the police 🚔, and it was found within the hour. They were a little late for the fish, but they were soon underway, and ended up having a good day of fishing 🎣!

The times I saw Ray as a child, he was always good to me. He always had a Big Smile, and a laugh or two. And who could forget those distinctive, beautiful, bushy eyebrows?

God Bless you Ray. You were a good soul. I know you will be very missed. 🙏❤️

Rene Miller - February 28, 2021 at 03:45 PM

BO

“ Ray was a good man who cherished his family - all of his family. When Mom was living alone, he visited her often and I know she enjoyed those visits. Over the last year or so, he was the only person that Mom knew how to call and she called him often. He was the one person who knew what was going on with everyone in the family - illness, vacations, etc. I would often ask Mom how someone was doing and she would say "I haven't heard - I will call Raymond and let you know." He loved a good bargain - I remember him going to a store called Banks and finding all kinds of bargains! I also remember him paying me 25 cents for getting his dinner ready on Friday nights at mom's house (when I was about 12)! I spent many fun Saturday evenings at Roseville Bingo with Mom, Mert, Marcy and Raymond. When I heard what happened, I envisioned the family members who passed in the past 12 months waiting to greet him. He will be missed by all!

Bonnie Onsum

Bonnie Onsum - February 12, 2021 at 05:09 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Raymond Kenneth (Gus) Gustafson.



February 11, 2021 at 10:40 AM

Jl

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to you all! Raymond will be missed by all! So many good memories, ie. Sunday visits to Grandma and Uncle Raymond’s apartment on Douglas on Sunday mornings after church, his annual garage sales, hunting with Greg, and his chocolate covered cherries at Christmas time! Love and prayers,
Jodi Iliff 🙏❤️🙏

Jodi Iliff - February 11, 2021 at 10:36 AM

FW

“ From Cassi Gottlieb and Amanda Wurst purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Raymond Kenneth (Gus) Gustafson.



From Cassi Gottlieb and Amanda Wurst - February 11, 2021 at 09:35 AM



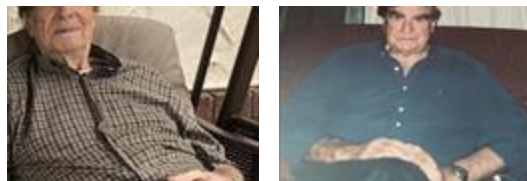
“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond Kenneth (Gus) Gustafson.



February 10, 2021 at 02:17 PM

DT

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Diane Toner - February 09, 2021 at 07:45 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raymond Kenneth (Gus) Gustafson.*



February 09, 2021 at 06:28 PM



“ *He was a blessed man to have children that loved him and was there for him. May he be in the arms of our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

Kathleen Murphy - February 09, 2021 at 05:54 PM

KM

“ Raymond, you will be missed so very much.

I'll always remember you parking nearly a mile away and walking to North Memorial to visit my mom because the parking fee was too high - when you were in your 80s (!); and when Bernadine and I found a quarter in your driveway, and you said "so THAT'S where it was - I even dug through my couch cushions looking for that quarter!"

I'll also always be grateful for when you co-signed for the car loan on my dream car when I was a teenager, and when you loaned Bernadine and me the down payment for our first nice house (which we otherwise couldn't have afforded). There were also many, many times in the early years of our marriage when you helped out after our car stalled or our TV broke down.

You may have been somewhat thrifty, but you were also very, very generous to me and my family.

We only talked and visited a few times each year, but since I talked to my mom every day, and she talked to you every day, I feel we were always connected.

Thanks for everything, and thanks also to your kids, who I know you treasured and who enabled you to live your last years the way you wanted.

Raymond, you did it your way, and you did it well, and we'll never forget you.

Karl, Bernadine and Ashley

Karl Mattson - February 09, 2021 at 05:19 PM

KM

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Karl, Bernadine & Ashley Mattson - February 09, 2021 at 04:37 PM

PJ

“ You were such a staple in our lives! We loved that you were in it and left such a beautiful impression. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family right now as they work through this challenging time and process . Rest In Peace my sweet Uncle ! Pam Johnson-Schmitt and family

pam johnson - February 09, 2021 at 04:07 PM

DT

“ Our deepest sympathy goes out to all Raymond's family at this difficult time.. He will be greatly missed by us all. He checked in with us sisters often, and will sure miss that! He was kinda like a brother mom so to speak - to me, he took on a lot of my mom's traits, after she passed. Always concerned.. His memory will always stay with us. When he used to come to Christmas Eve with us, we always knew he would be bringing Chocolate Covered Cherries ; and I for one loved those... Ray again you will be greatly missed by us all but not forgotten! Rest In Peace, Ray! Prayers go out for all his children and their families , and may all his memories be of some comfort at this difficult time! You definitely are/were loved by us all!

Diane Toner - February 09, 2021 at 03:12 PM

DJ

Raymond, also known as Batman to my son. I will cherish the many memories of you, and your hilarious nature. For sure a gentle and sweet soul. I apologize for missing your funeral, I would have valued the opportunity to share a few words!

I suppose I can share a few here, all in good fun and jest.

I have fond memories of you picking me up to go fishing on Medicine Lake. I have even more fond memories of why you took me. It was so I could row the rental boat from Harty's and you could troll in! Lol!

How about this as well. I am a man in my 50's. It is about this age you would come over to the house in Plymouth to lay in the sun back in the 80's. Baby oil and a reflector screen for that deep dark tan!

Dog tracks in Hudson, watching football games with you while your holding your numbers for the game. Took me awhile to understand the excitement or frustration for teams you weren't a fan of... but there was a chance to WIN haha!

So many more to say, but let's let others reflect. You were a sweet uncle, affable and good natured. We loved your energy, and will miss you. Every Christmas we will raise up our Queen Anne Cherries in your honor!

RIP Raymond. Enjoy your family members that I am sure your visiting with right now! Maybe Greg can row for you on a fishing excursion!

Don Jr.

Donald G. Toner, Jr. - February 09, 2021 at 04:19 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Clara Reed - February 09, 2021 at 02:55 PM