

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

June 2016



Clyde A. Keefer

Sponsored by:

White Alloe Chapter



Clyde grew up in small towns throughout Western Pennsylvania, the son of a coal miner. He graduated from Connellsville High School and joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in November 1945. At the time he was nineteen years old. He went to basic training in Amarillo, Texas, and then was sent to Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, where he worked as a general clerk assisting in the processing of service members leaving active duty. Later he was sent on to Itazuke Air Force Base in Japan. There he was an admin specialist. Later he was transferred to Ashiya Air Force Base and ultimately received the Occupation of Japan Medal.

Mr. Keefer was discharged in June 1949 in Pennsylvania and soon after he returned home he decided to use his G.I. Bill to attend Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania. He was the first one in his family to attend college. He studied Political Science and took courses in Philosophy and other liberal arts subjects and this awakened his keen interest in world affairs and politics. Clyde passed this love on to his children and grandchildren, several of whom have followed in his footsteps and majored in Political Science. His daughter, Dr. Denise Keefer Runge, has her PhD in Political Science and is alumni of her father's college W & J.

While in college, Clyde met his future wife, Dolores Jean Mahanna. Dolores and Clyde were married on August 5, 1950. To help them financially his wife made sandwiches each evening for his Kappa Sigma Fraternity brothers and sold them during their study sessions.

After graduating, Mr. Keefer went to work for Pittsburgh Paint & Glass Company as a salesman. They eventually transferred him to Atlanta, Georgia, and he and his family have remained in the South ever since. Clyde worked for Atlanta Solvents and Chemical Company as a salesman and then went on to form his own company CPD Chemical Company in Dalton, Georgia and later Compro Industries in south Atlanta. Although an avid Braves fan, Mr. Keefer also loved to follow his Pittsburgh Pirates and remembers fondly seeing Babe Ruth play baseball when he was a child.

He was a member of the Atlanta Optimist Club and held the position of President from 1956-1957.

Mr. Keefer was involved extensively with the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the Northwest Georgia Council. He held positions from cub master, to scout master and finally district chairman. Clyde influenced the lives of many young boys through his dedication to this program and his son Richard Kevin Keefer achieved Eagle Scout.

After retirement, Clyde enjoyed working part-time for the U.S. Census Bureau (2000 census) and helped his daughter, Cynthia Keefer Patton, produce genealogy newsletters. In the fall of 2001, Clyde and Dolores took the trip of a lifetime to England and Wales to visit their daughter Deb Keefer Ramage; where they were able to explore areas where ancestors had once lived. He was extremely active in the Methodist Church with several congregations, serving on Finance and Tithing Committees, president of the United Methodist Men's Club at Nugent UMC and St. Stevens UMC and spent countless hours working in a Food Pantry also at Nugent UMC in Gulfport, Mississippi.

Mr. Keefer lives now in Alabama with his wife of 65 years and near his son, David, and wife, Rene, and other son, Donald Scott. Now almost 90 years young, Clyde still loves to pass on stories of his service and early family life and share new information that his daughter, Cynthia, has discovered in their genealogy journey. In the fall of 2001, Clyde and Dolores took the trip of a lifetime to England and Wales to visit their daughter Deb Keefer Ramage; where they were able to explore areas where ancestors had once lived.

The Daughters of the White Alloe Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Clyde Andrew Keefer as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.