

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Stepper, Vincent B. Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Chickasaw County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 29 Apr 1928 Denkerton, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

Elizabeth Patricia Rattay 26 Apr 1966

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Founder and president of Harrostatall Industries  
and Pallet Industries

B. Civic responsibilities American Legion

C. Profession Businessman - Harrostatall and Pallet Industries

4. Church membership Catholic

5. Sessions served 60<sup>th</sup>, 61<sup>st</sup>, 62<sup>nd</sup> General Assemblies 1963, 1965, 1967

6. Public Offices

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

B. State Speaker of the House - 61<sup>st</sup> General Assembly 1965

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 10 July 1994 New Hampton, Iowa; buried

8. Children Mark; Peter

9. Names of parents Joseph Nicholas and Matilda A. (Meier) Stepper

10. Education Educated in rural schools of Black Hawk  
County; graduated from Dunkerton High  
School, Dunkerton, Iowa, 1945

11. Degrees \_\_\_\_\_

12. Other applicable information Democrat

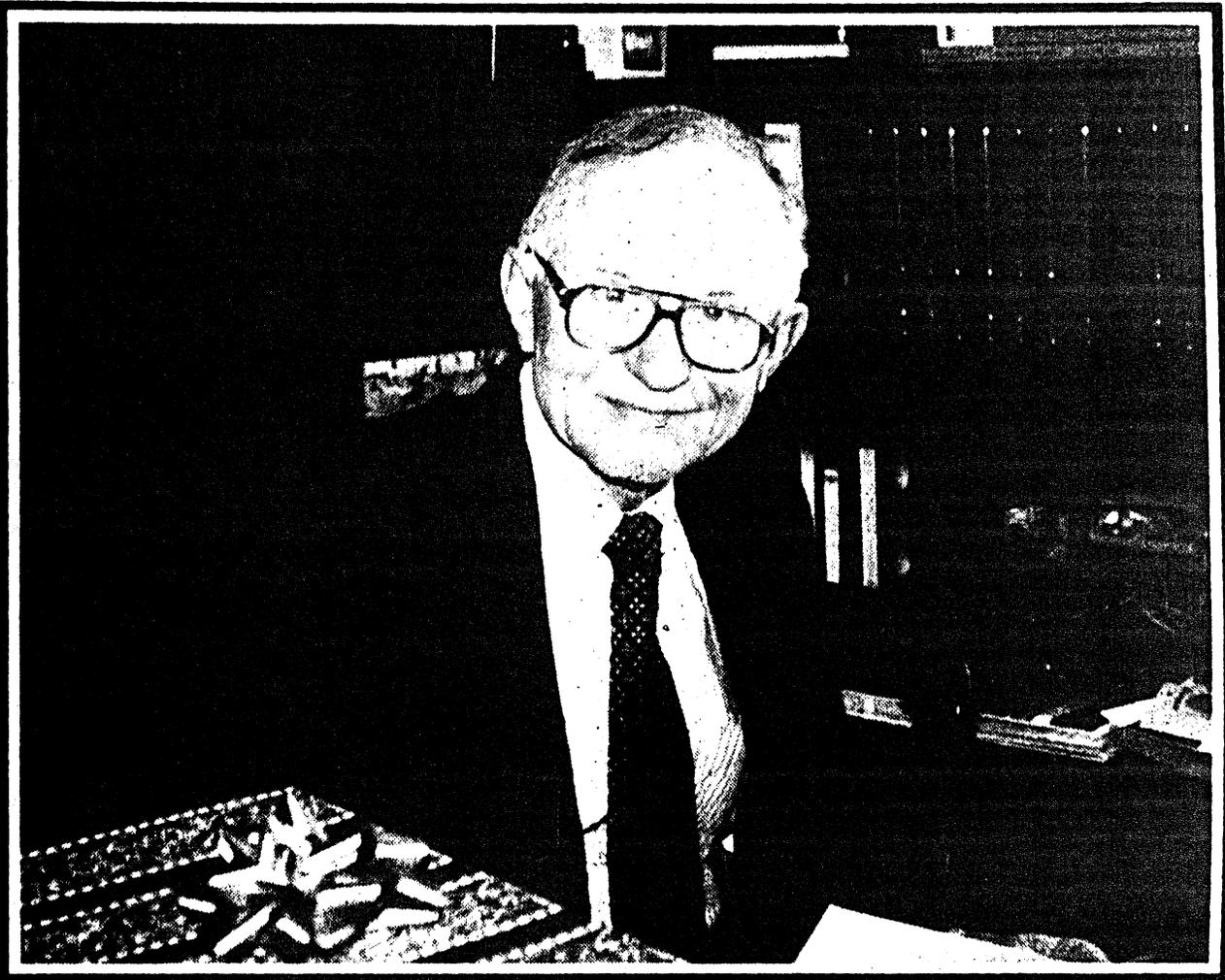
- Military Service - Army Corps of Engineers for 2 years
- He held numerous U.S. and foreign patents pertaining  
to grain bins and grain handling
- He was an inventor with more than a dozen patents to his name  
His business were inventions to prevent suffocation accidents in grain  
bins and to remove moisture from grain in that way best.





# en remembered

litician, businessman and family man



Vince Steffen, pictured here during his 66th birthday celebration this past April, died on Sunday of an apparent heart attack. The three-term legislator, inventor, businessman and family man was mourned this week after a death which was described as a great shock by family members.

down to was, he was trying to improve the quality of grain. Which has the two major benefits, of course, to feed more people, because everyone is so dependent on grain, and also to improve the lives of farmers. "So those were his two goals."

the technique known as "chillcuring," which removes moisture from grain without using heat.

Two of Vince's other creations, these with Betty, were Mark and his youngest son, Peter, who recently gained national recognition as a con-

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Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines

# Steffen remember

*Inventor, politician, businessman and family man*

By Craig T. Neises  
News Editor

Vince Steffen had just returned home from church on Sunday when he suffered the apparent heart attack which took his life. Betty Steffen, Vince's wife, says that seemed appropriate.

"That's what makes this so easy to take," she said. "I know he's in Heaven."

Mark Steffen, the oldest of Vince and Betty's two sons, said that the family's strong faith has eased the pain from the unexpected death of their 66-year-old father and husband.

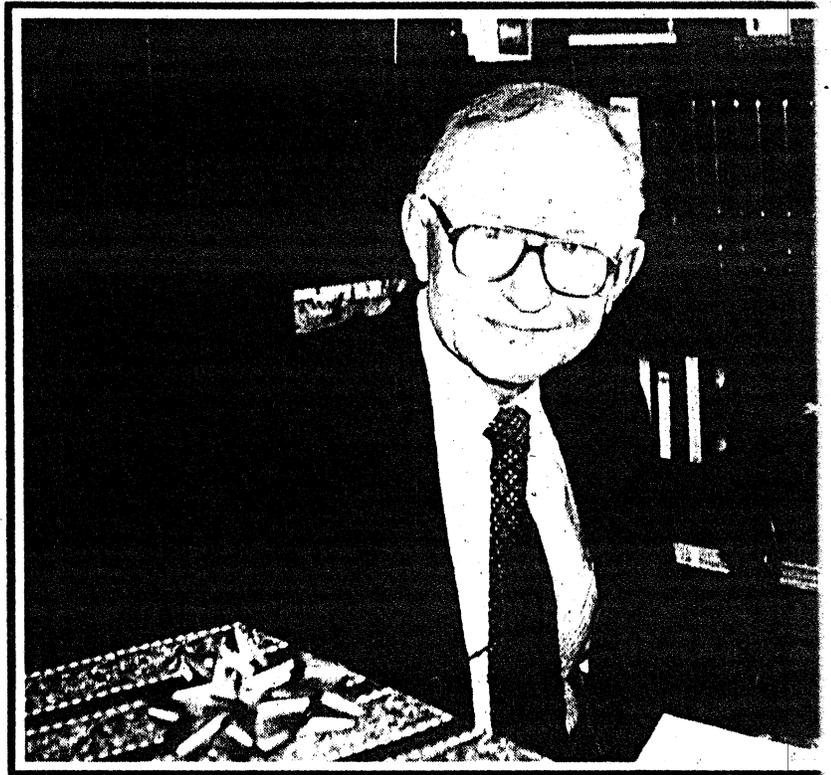
"It happened right when he came home from church, and that pretty much says it all," said Mark, who will now be taking over operation of his father's businesses. "Two of his sisters are nuns, and he has a brother who is a missionary priest in New Guinea, so their whole family is very strong Catholic. That, of course, has been a great comfort to us, and we share in that faith as well."

Looking back on his life, family and friends can be proud of Steffen's many accomplishments. Serving as a democratic member of the Iowa House from 1963-69, he spent two years as Speaker of the House.

He was also an inventor with more than a dozen patents in his name, and one currently awaiting approval from the U.S. Patent Office. He also started and operated two businesses, both ag related, which he piloted through the farm crisis of the 1980s.

Mark said he hopes people remember him for the work he did in trying to improve people's lives through his inventions.

"I think it's really important for the people in the community to recognize as best they can where he was headed with the care of grain and why that was so important," Mark said. "Basically, what it boiled



Vince Steffen, pictured here during his 66th birthday celebration last April, died on Sunday of an apparent heart attack. The legislator, inventor, businessman and family man was mourned after a death which was described as a great shock by family

down to was, he was trying to improve the quality of grain. Which has the two major benefits, of course, to feed more people, because everyone is so dependent on grain, and also to improve the lives of farmers.

"So those were his two goals," Mark continued. "To improve grain and improve the life of the farmer. And if people remember that about him, that's what he would want people to remember."

Those efforts were made through operation of his businesses and his inventions. In 1953, he opened Harvestall, and in 1972 he opened Pallet Industries. Among his patents include the "binoscope," which was a system of piping to prevent suffocation accidents in grain bins, and

the technique known as "chillcuring," which removes moisture from grain without

Two of Vince's other children, these with Betty, were Mark and his youngest son, Peter, who gained national recognition as a contestant on "Jeopardy!" Mark will remember his father as a very good Dad.

"As any son would say, I was probably the greatest Dad ever had," Mark said. "A couple of examples really stand out."

"Number 1, he always treated me as an adult," Mark complained that at the age of 10, he started taking him along on fishing trips and let him sit in a

# Remembered ...

## Businessman and family man mourned



1, pictured here during his 66th birthday celebration this Monday on Sunday of an apparent heart attack. The three-term legislator, businessman and family man was mourned this week. The death was described as a great shock by family members.

he was trying to improve the quality of grain. Which had many benefits, of course, for people, because everybody is dependent on grain, and the lives of farmers. These were his two goals," Mark said. "To improve grain and the life of the farmer. Remember that about the time he would want to number."

These were made through his businesses and his patents. In 1953, he opened a business. In 1972 he opened another. Among his patents was a microscope, which was designed to prevent suffocation in grain bins, and

the technique known as "chillcuring," which removes moisture from grain without using heat.

Two of Vince's other creations, these with Betty, were Mark and his youngest son, Peter, who recently gained national recognition as a contestant on "Jeopardy!" Mark said he will remember his father as being a very good Dad.

"As any son would say, he was probably the greatest Dad anyone ever had," Mark said. "I think a couple of examples really illustrate that.

"Number 1, he always treated me as an adult," Mark continued, explaining that at the age of 4, Vince started taking him along on business trips and let him sit in on business

meetings. The other example is when Mark was given the freedom to choose another path away from the family business when he left for college.

"It was just an unbelievable father-son relationship, unlike any I've ever seen," Mark said. "That was very tremendous."

Steffen also left his mark on the Iowa Legislature. Bob Rigler, who was in the Iowa Senate at that time, remembered Steffen as being a good politician.

"He was an honorable, dedicated public servant," Rigler said. "One of a vanishing breed." Rigler also explained that even though he'd been in the House just two years, then-Governor Harold Hughes "insisted" that Vince be House Speaker. In

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"That's what makes this so easy to take. I know he's in Heaven."

-- Betty Steffen

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1968, Steffen made an unsuccessful run at the Lieutenant Governor's spot.

Mike Kennedy, who followed Steffen into office, said those were "pretty activist" days.

"Vince had a very important position at a very interesting time," Kennedy said. Among Steffen's accomplishments in the House were bills on alcoholic treatment facilities, prohibition of strikebreakers and abolishment of capital punishment in Iowa. He also wrote the first helmet requirement bill for motorcyclists.

## Vincent Steffen

Vincent B. Steffen, 66, New Hampton, died suddenly Sunday morning of an apparent heart attack.

Funeral mass will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 13 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with Father Carl Schmitt officiating.

Vincent was born April 29, 1928 at Dunkerton, the son of Joseph and Matilda Steffen. He was educated in the rural schools of Black Hawk County and graduated from Dunkerton High School. He served two years with the Army Corps of Engineers.

He was founder and president of Harvestall Industries and Pallet Industries, both of New Hampton, a member of the 3rd and 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, the American Legion and St. Joseph's Church. He held numerous United States and foreign patents pertaining to grain bin technology and materials handling technology.

Survivors include his wife, Betty; two sons, Mark, Cedar Falls and Peter, New Hampton; two sisters, Sister Mary Samuel Steffen, O.S.F.



Vincent Steffen

and Sister Mary Justina Steffen O.S.F.; seven brothers, Richard and Alfred, Dunkerton, Norbert Steffen, New Hampton, Father Arnold Steffen S.V.D., Sylvester (Pat) Steffen, New Hampton, Cletus Steffen, Dunkerton and Ralph Steffen, Park Ridge, IL.

Visitation will be after 3 p.m. Tuesday at Larkin-Martin Funeral Home with a rosary at 4 p.m., parish scripture at 7:30 p.m. and Knights of Columbus rosary at 8 p.m.

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### Vincent B. Steffen

Birth **29 APR 1928** in Dunkerton, Iowa  
Death **10 JUL 1994** in New Hampton, Iowa

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#### Media Gallery

No photos, stories, audio or video have been added yet.

#### Timeline ( View details )

- 1928**  
29 Apr **Birth**  
Dunkerton, Iowa 2 source citations
- 1966**  
26 Nov **Marriage to Living Rattay**  
Age: 38 1 source citation
- 1994**  
10 Jul **Marriage fact**  
Age: 66 1 source citation
- 1994**  
10 Jul **Death**  
New Hampton, Iowa 2 source citations
- marriageEnd**  
Death of one spouse

#### Comments

No comments have been added yet.

[Add a comment](#)

#### Family Members

##### Parents

**Joseph Nicholas Steffen**  
1890 - 1976

**Mathilda A. Meier**  
1892 - 1958

[Show siblings](#)

##### Spouse & Children

**Living Rattay**

**Living Steffen**

**Living Steffen**

[Family group sheet](#)

#### Source Information

[view details](#)

##### meier.ftw

5 citations provide evidence for **Name, Birth, Death, Marriage, Custom Event**

##### Social Security Death Index

3 citations provide evidence for **Name, Birth, Death**

#### Web Links

There are no weblinks available for this person.

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# Individual Record

FamilySearch™ U.S. Social Security Death Index

## Search Results

Select record to download - Maximum: 50

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 **Vincent STEFFEN**

**Birth Date:** 29 Apr 1928  
**Death Date:** 10 Jul 1994  
**Social Security Number:** 485-38-8274  
**State or Territory Where Number Was Issued:** Iowa

**Death Residence Localities**

**ZIP Code:** 50659  
**Localities:** Boyd, Chickasaw, Iowa  
Jerico, Chickasaw, Iowa  
New Hampton, Chickasaw, Iowa

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