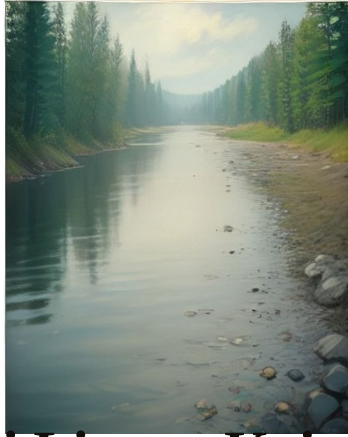




Aili Linnea Koivisto

February 8, 1945 - August 28, 2026

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Aili Linnea Koivisto died in Eau Claire on August 28, 2026. She was eighty-one. Born there on February 8, 1945, to parents who had come from Ostrobothnia by way of a long patience, she grew up knowing paper as a rumor that paid and a river as a weekday neighbor. She learned a grade before she learned a highway.

She spent twenty-nine years in a mill that started before daylight, first as a helper, later as the woman who could tell, from the sound of a calendar, whether a lot would hold through a late boat. She kept extra coffee for the sorter whose morning had already been too long. She would not let a buyer invent a grade that made the scale a liar. After a bad afternoon she sat in the stairwell with the radio off until her hands were quiet.

She married Jorma Koivisto in 1966. They bought a bungalow in a neighborhood that later became expensive around them. They stayed. A son and a daughter went through public schools she trusted more than she trusted waterfront talk. After Jorma died in 2014 she kept the garden of rhubarb and the habit of walking a neighbor's child to the bus when a shift ran late.

Neighbors remember a woman who swept her sidewalk and yours if the wind had been unfair, who kept a coffee can of measuring spoons labeled in two languages, and who could sit through a graduation without making it about herself. She liked the river early, before the heat. She died in Eau Claire, among pines she had never needed to explain. The extra coffee is still in the thermos.

Services

A memorial in Eau Claire with tea afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a mill-workers' fund is welcome.

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