



Aili Linnea Whittemore

September 1, 1945 - August 26, 2026

Tacoma, Washington

Aili Linnea Whittemore died in Tacoma on August 26, 2026. She was 80. Born in Tacoma on September 1, 1945, into a Finnish-American household that treated work as a language. She learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

She tested pulp until numbers told the truth. A sample bottle rack by the sink was her garden; quality was a habit, not a slogan. Colleagues still mention a sample bottle rack by the sink.

She married Toivo in 1972. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised two daughters through public schools and ordinary weather. After Toivo died in 2019, she kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember someone who knew every child's name on the block. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Tacoma, among streets she never needed to explain. The recipe card is still stained in the useful places.

Services

A memorial gathering in Tacoma with coffee afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a local workers' fund, clinic, or neighborhood library is welcome.

NN-OBIT-2026-C526

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