



## Aisha Nadine Kilpatrick

*May 19, 1962 - September 4, 2026*

Durham, North Carolina

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Aisha Nadine Kilpatrick died in Durham on September 4, 2026. She was sixty-four. Born there on May 19, 1962, she grew up knowing a campus as a weekday neighbor, not a postcard, and she learned a transcript before she learned a highway. A correct credit, she said, is a form of respect when a student already has enough doors closing.

She spent twenty-two years as a community-college registrar, first filing, later keeping the desk that had to catch people who arrived late from a night shift and still wanted a morning class. She treated a long line as weather. When the office put in a machine that was supposed to replace a person, she learned the machine and then taught it manners. She would not let a first-generation student be rushed. She would not let a number invent a life.

She married Marcus Kilpatrick in 1988. They raised a daughter and a son in a bungalow that needed storm windows and a porch that never lacked an extra chair. Marcus taught shop. Aisha packed lunches and considered a Sunday pot a civic obligation. After a bad afternoon she sat in the car with the radio off until her hands were quiet.

Friends remember a woman who showed up to help move a couch as if that were the natural use of a Saturday, who could explain a deadline without making it a sermon, and who kept one good coat. She loved a quiet pew, a cup of coffee that was never quite hot enough, and the late light on the brick. She died in Durham, the tobacco-and-campus city she refused to narrate as a punch line. The files are closed. The fairness she practiced there is harder to replace than a catalog number.

## Services

A memorial in Durham. A gift to a community-college emergency fund or the public library suits her.

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