



Alma Louise Pickett

February 17, 1949 - September 8, 2026

Kansas City, Missouri

Alma Louise Pickett died in Kansas City on September 8, 2026. She was seventy-seven. Born there on February 17, 1949, she grew up hearing the stockyards before she saw the skyline, and she treated that as ordinary weather. She left school at sixteen for a packing line, then spent the next chapter feeding other people's children in a brick elementary that never had enough help and always had enough hunger.

She ran a lunchroom the way a good dispatcher runs a radio: no speeches, no wasted motion, a second milk for the child who would not ask. She kept a pencil over her ear and a list on the walk-in door. Snow days did not excuse a freezer. Budget cuts did not excuse a dry roll. She could make a commodity cheese block taste like a decision instead of a humiliation.

She married Robert Pickett in 1970. They kept a small house near Troost, a daughter, a son, and a radio that stayed on the Royals even in losing years. Robert drove bakery routes and died in 2012. Alma kept his chair for a season and then gave it to a grandson who needed a homework lamp. She bowled Thursdays until the shoulder quit. She mailed birthday cards a day early on purpose.

The block remembers a woman who left soup on porches in reused tubs and denied it if asked. She disliked fuss and loved a wiped counter. She died in the city that had always been enough map. The lunchroom is still open. That would have pleased her more than a eulogy.

Services

A gathering at her parish hall in Kansas City. Friends may bring a covered dish. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a school meal program is welcome.

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