



Alois Peter Koenigsfeld

April 4, 1938 - August 17, 2026

Dubuque, Iowa

Alois Peter Koenigsfeld died in Dubuque on August 17, 2026. He was eighty-eight. Born there on April 4, 1938, he grew up knowing a packinghouse as a clock that did not sleep, and he learned a hook before he learned a highway. A barge, he said later, is a kind of sentence: it has to arrive complete.

He spent twenty years in a house that smelled of ice and coffee, then another two decades as a clerk who kept other people's freight from becoming a story about waste. He started dragging hoses. He ended as the man who could tell, from the sound of a winch, whether a lot would hold through a late lock. He kept extra coffee for the kid whose morning had already been too long. He would not let a buyer invent a grade that made the scale a liar.

He married Greta Koenigsfeld in 1960. They raised a son and a daughter in a bungalow that needed storm windows. After Greta died in 2008 he still sat with neighbors who had to renew something and did not know where to start.

Friends remember a man who would stay seven minutes past closing for a person who had taken two buses, who hated a messy stamp pad, and who said you're fine in a way that actually meant the work would get done. He liked the bluff early, before the heat, when the river still looked like a place a person could walk. He died in Dubuque, in the brick city he refused to apologize for. The extra coffee is still in the thermos.

Services

A funeral in Dubuque, then a hall with coffee. A gift to a river-workers' fund is welcome.

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