



Anja Linnea Kuperinen

October 11, 1949 - August 18, 2026

Fairbanks, Alaska

Anja Linnea Kuperinen died in Fairbanks on August 18, 2026. She was seventy-six. Born there on October 11, 1949, to parents who had come from Ostrobothnia by way of a long patience, she grew up knowing dark as a work schedule, not a conversation. She learned English at school and a second set of manners at the table. She never treated either language as a costume.

She spent twenty-six years in a university laundry that fed dorms through winters that punished hesitation. She started folding. She ended as the woman who could tell, from the sound of a dryer, whether a lot would hold through a late exam week. She kept extra mittens without putting a note on the counter about generosity. When the temperature dropped past sense she still opened, because weather is not a reason to leave a student without a clean sheet.

She married Eero Kuperinen in 1971. They raised two daughters in a house that needed a new mudroom every decade. After Eero died in 2011 she kept his chair for a year and then gave it to a niece who needed a place to do homework. She packed lunches that could survive a walk in January.

Neighbors remember a woman who would jump a battery in a lot that looked like a glacier, who kept a coffee can of clothespins labeled in two languages, and who could sit through a graduation without making it about herself. She liked the first night in April when the light finally argued with itself. She died in Fairbanks, the only latitude she had ever needed. The extra mittens are still in the crate.

Services

A memorial in Fairbanks. A walk afterward if the ice allows. A gift to a campus laundry fund or a winter-coat

drive suits her.

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