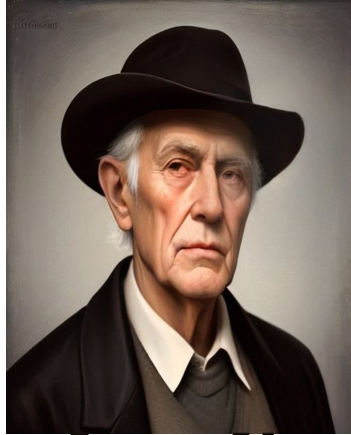




Arthur James Vanderbilt

August 4, 1951 - August 17, 2026

Joplin, Missouri

Arthur James Vanderbilt died in Joplin on August 17, 2026. He was 75. Born on August 4, 1951, into a Anglo Midwest household that treated work as a language. He learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

He moved freight across a line that was also a neighborhood. A bilingual clipboard held two calendars; he made deadlines without making enemies. Colleagues still mention a bilingual clipboard with both calendars.

He married Isabel in 1973. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised two daughters through public schools and ordinary weather. After Isabel died in 2019, he kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember someone who swept the sidewalk past the property line when weather had been unfair. He liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. He died in Joplin, among streets he never needed to explain. The tools are still hung where a hand can find them in the dark.

Services

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

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