



Aune Marja Korhonen

November 28, 1944 - September 6, 2026

Bay City, Michigan

Aune Marja Korhonen died in Bay City on September 6, 2026. She was eighty-one. Born there on November 28, 1944, to parents who had come from Karelia by way of a long patience, she grew up knowing sugar as a rumor that paid and a bay as a weekday neighbor. 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-two years in a plant that started before daylight, first as a helper, later as the woman who could tell, from the sound of a centrifuge, whether a lot would hold through a late boat. Later she kept a hospital desk that treated a long line as weather you could live with if you kept moving. She translated forms twice: once into English a tired visitor could use, and once into the quiet that says you are not in trouble for needing help.

She married Toivo Korhonen in 1966. They bought a bungalow in a neighborhood that later became expensive around them. They stayed. A son and a daughter went through public schools she trusted more than she trusted waterfront talk. After Toivo died in 2015 she kept the garden of rhubarb and the habit of walking a neighbor's child to the bus when a shift ran late.

Neighbors remember a woman who swept her sidewalk and yours if the wind had been unfair, who kept a coffee can of measuring spoons labeled in two languages, and who could sit through a graduation without making it about herself. She liked the bay early, before the heat. She died in Bay City, among flats she had never needed to explain. The extra coffee is still in the thermos.

Services

A memorial in Bay City with tea afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a hospital volunteer desk or a

plant-workers' fund is welcome.

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