



Beatrice Inez Rawls

January 24, 1956 - September 5, 2026

Anchorage, Alaska

Beatrice Inez Rawls died in Anchorage on September 5, 2026. She was seventy. Born there on January 24, 1956, she grew up knowing the inlet as a workplace, not a backdrop, and she learned a flight board before she learned a highway. A correct time, she said, is a form of respect when weather is already arguing.

She spent twenty-four years scheduling clinic and bush flights, first on a night desk that smelled of burnt coffee, later as the calm voice that found a seat when the wind turned. She did not shout into a telephone. She repeated a strip until the person on the other end had it, then she wrote the time in a log she treated as a kind of prayer. Pilots trusted her because she would tell them when she did not know, which is rarer than bravery.

She married Louis Rawls in 1980. They raised a daughter and a son in a house with a view of the Chugach and a freezer that friends had shared. Louis taught shop. Beatrice packed lunches that could survive a fourteen-hour shift and still taste like home. She walked the coastal trail before dawn because that was when the water looked like work instead of recreation.

Neighbors remember a woman who brought soup to a night shift without staying for thanks, who knew which intern needed a second explanation, and who could hear a weather radio without making it a personality. She loved a late-summer berry, a clean map, and the particular silence after a flight is cancelled and then is not. She died in Anchorage, the high city that had always been enough map. The board is still open. Someone else will say the strips. They will say them a little faster than she did.

Services

A gathering in Anchorage at evening. A gift to a clinic flight fund or a library suits her.

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