



Bernice Faye Overstreet

August 30, 1947 - September 3, 2026

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Bernice Faye Overstreet died in Fort Wayne on September 3, 2026. She was seventy-nine. Born there on August 30, 1947, she grew up knowing magnet wire as a rumor that paid and a time clock as a neighbor that never slept. She learned a micrometer before she learned a campus. A gauge, she said, is a story that has to be true twice.

She spent twenty-nine years as an inspector in a plant that fed motors the rest of the country never thought about. She walked aisles after a rush and kitchens after a pan left on a burner at home. She would not let a widow be rushed. She would not let a contractor invent a cathedral of overtime. After a bad afternoon she sat in the car with the radio off until her hands were quiet.

She married Raymond Overstreet in 1968. They raised a daughter in a two-family that needed storm windows and a son who needed a ride to band at hours no one should be awake. Raymond drove a bread truck. Bernice packed lunches and considered a Sunday roast a civic obligation. After he died in 2014 she kept the garden of tomatoes against the porch and the habit of sending a plate next door.

Friends remember a woman who showed up with soup as if that were the natural use of a Tuesday, who could explain a reject tag without making it a sermon, and who kept one good coat. She loved a quiet gallery at the art museum, a cup of coffee that was never quite hot enough, and the river when it looked like metal. She died in Fort Wayne, the tool city she refused to narrate as a punch line. The line is closed. The fairness she practiced there is harder to replace than a bin number.

Services

A memorial in Fort Wayne. A gift to a plant-workers' fund or the public library suits her.

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