



Bjorn Lars Skogstad

January 30, 1947 - August 20, 2026

Grand Forks, North Dakota

Bjorn Lars Skogstad died in Grand Forks on August 20, 2026. He was seventy-nine. Born there on January 30, 1947, he grew up knowing winter as a work schedule, not a conversation. His father kept a beet truck running in weather that punished hesitation. Bjorn learned a socket set before he learned a highway south.

He spent most of his adult life in a sugar plant at the edge of town, first as a line kid dragging hoses, later as the millwright who could hear a tired pump before the logbook admitted it. He did not romanticize the Red River. He said beauty from a dike and danger from a cellar were both true before breakfast. He kept a coffee can of AN hardware and a refusal to charge a church youth trip what a catalog said a hose was worth.

He married Ingrid Skogstad in 1971. They raised two sons in a house that needed a new mudroom every decade. Ingrid taught at the elementary. Bjorn packed her lunches with the same seriousness he packed a toolbox. After his hands stiffened he still came out for a favorite campaign, moving slower, swearing with more precision.

Friends remember a man who would jump a truck at thirty below without calling it a favor, who could sit through a long potluck without making the cold a personality, and who owned one good parka. He liked the river in late April, when the ice finally argued with itself, and a slice of pie he never quite finished. He died in Grand Forks, the only latitude he had ever needed. The plant light is off. A lot of small trucks still start because he was stubborn about a job.

Services

A memorial in Grand Forks. A walk to the dike afterward if the weather allows. A gift to a flood-relief pantry suits him.

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