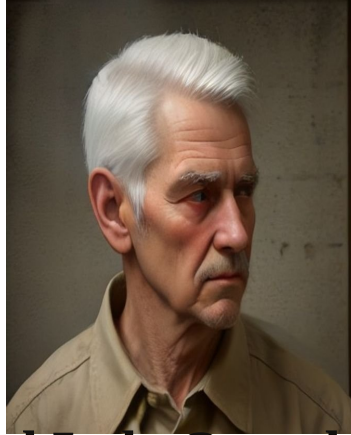




Buford Lyle Quattlebaum

February 28, 1941 - August 21, 2026

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Buford Lyle Quattlebaum died in Pine Bluff on August 21, 2026. He was eighty-five. Born there on February 28, 1941, he grew up hearing the paper mill before he understood a map. His father worked a beater. Buford learned that a roll is a promise: it holds, or the whole story comes apart in the dark.

For thirty-four years he was a millwright, crawling under machines that other men only blamed. He arrived early. He did not advertise. Foremen called him because he would write up a cracked bearing even when the shift was already called. He charged a fair hour and a smaller one when a church van needed a lift more than a sermon. He kept a notebook of machines, not clients. The notebook had grease on the edges.

He married Imogene Quattlebaum in 1963. They raised three children in a frame house that needed a new porch every twenty years. Imogene kept the garden and the choir. Buford grilled on Sundays and considered a plate of smoked chicken a seasonal obligation. After his knees quit the worst pits he still came out for a favorite press, moving slower, doing the same honest work.

Friends remember a man who wiped his hands before he shook yours, who could stand in a noise without making it a personality, and who left a floor cleaner than he found it. He loved the river at evening, a glass of tea he did not finish, and the sound of a machine that had decided to live. He died in Pine Bluff, in the city whose mill had written his calendar. The line still starts. Someone else will hear the knock that means trouble.

Services

Visitation in Pine Bluff, then a simple service. A gift to a mill-workers' assistance fund or a neighborhood pantry is welcome.

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