



Calvin Gene Doherty

July 19, 1931 - January 7, 2026

Fort Smith, Arkansas

Fort Smith lost Calvin Gene Doherty on January 7, 2026. He was 94. He was born on July 19, 1931 in a Trinidadian-American family that measured love in finished chores. He grew up believing that showing up was the first craft.

He sorted peanuts until gauges agreed and pride could return. A shelling grade paddle stayed clean enough to trust. Colleagues still mention a shelling grade paddle.

He married Shirley in 1953. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised two children through public schools and ordinary weather. After Shirley died in 2019, he kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember quiet help with a stuck mailbox or a heavy trash can. Mornings were his favorite shift at home. He died in Fort Smith, on streets that already knew his pace. The porch still expects a returning step.

What remains is not a legend but a practice: showing up, keeping a promise, leaving a place better than you found it. His life was the kind America is built from and too often forgets to name.

Services

A memorial gathering in Fort Smith with coffee afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a local workers' fund, clinic, or neighborhood library is welcome.

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