



Cecil Wayne Rainwater

August 27, 1945 - August 22, 2026

Lawton, Oklahoma

Cecil Wayne Rainwater died in Lawton on August 22, 2026. He was eighty. Born there on August 27, 1945, he grew up knowing a hardware counter as a clock and a weather report. He learned engines the way other boys learned baseball statistics. A bolt, he believed, was a set of honest problems. People were harder, but he liked them anyway.

He ran a one-bay shop off the highway for most of his adult life, then the hardware aisle that fed it. He did not advertise. He did not need to. Word moved along the rail: Cecil will tell you if you do not need the part. He kept a handwritten ledger and a jar of extra fuses. He hired a neighbor's kid every summer and taught him that a torque wrench is not a suggestion. When the big chains arrived with televisions in the waiting rooms, he kept the radio on an AM station and a pot of coffee that was never quite fresh and never empty.

He married Denise Rainwater in 1967. They raised two sons in a house with a garage that was cleaner than the living room. Denise worked at the clinic. Cecil grilled on Sundays and considered a Saturday in the Wichita Mountains a civic duty. After the post slowed he still came out when a neighbor's well pump died, moving slower, charging less.

Customers remember a man who wiped his hands before he shook yours, who would jump a battery at dusk without calling it a favor, and who could diagnose a knock from the curb. He liked the hills at evening, a green-chile cheeseburger on a rare trip to town, and a church he stood through in the back because his knees had opinions. He died in Lawton, the high dry town that had always been home. The shop sign is down. A lot of cars in the county still run because he was stubborn about a job.

Services

A memorial in Lawton. The family welcomes stories in the hall, and a contribution to a youth trades program if you insist on doing something extra.

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