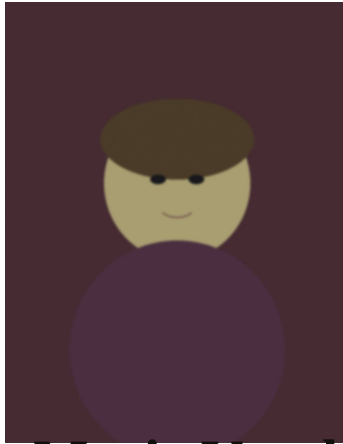




Cecile Marie Vanderkooi

July 17, 1934 - August 22, 2026

Lafayette, Louisiana

Cecile Marie Vanderkooi died in Lafayette on August 22, 2026. She was 92. Born on July 17, 1934 and raised among Cajun-French manners that never needed a speech. Early on, she decided that a paycheck and a handshake should weigh the same.

She managed sheds that held festivals and piecework with equal care. A boil shed timer that never failed outlasted two bosses. Colleagues still mention a boil shed timer that never failed.

In 1960 she married Joseph. The marriage was not a speech; it was groceries, repairs, and four children walked to school in weather that did not care. When Joseph died in 2019, she kept what still worked: the early walk, the small garden, the call on Sundays.

Neighbors remember coffee offered before questions. She preferred the hour before a town fully wakes. Lafayette was home enough that she never rehearsed an introduction. The recipe card is still stained in the useful places.

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

Services

Services in Lafayette will be simple: stories, coffee, and the names of people who showed up. Flowers optional; support for a local clinic or trade scholarship preferred.

NN-OBIT-2026-C918

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