



Charles Earl Zielinski

October 11, 1947 - August 8, 2026

Albany, New York

Charles Earl Zielinski died in Albany on August 8, 2026. He was 78. Born in Albany on October 11, 1947, into a Polish-American household that treated work as a language. He learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

He hung over rivers in a harness that became a second spine. A shining buckle was pride; rust was the enemy he understood. Colleagues still mention a harness buckle shining from use.

He married Janice in 1974. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised a daughter through public schools and ordinary weather. After Janice died in 2019, he kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember someone who knew every child's name on the block. He liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. He died in Albany, among streets he never needed to explain. The chair by the window still holds the shape of a habit.

Services

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

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