



Claire Marie Benoit

June 17, 1941 - September 5, 2026

Wilmington, Delaware

Claire Marie Benoit died in Wilmington on September 5, 2026. She was 85. Born on June 17, 1941, with Franco-American roots that shaped the table more than the flag. She learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

She brought shine to metal until it looked inevitable. A buffing wheel tuned by ear was her signature; piecework never made her careless. Colleagues still mention a buffing wheel tuned by ear.

She married Henri in 1963. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised two daughters through public schools and ordinary weather. After Henri died in 2019, she kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember someone who swept the sidewalk past the property line when weather had been unfair. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Wilmington, among streets she never needed to explain. The extra coffee is still in the thermos.

Services

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

NN-OBIT-2026-C548

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