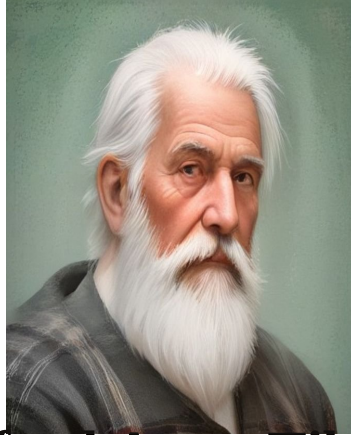




Clifford Ames Tibbetts

October 30, 1944 - August 20, 2026

Augusta, Maine

Clifford Ames Tibbetts died in Augusta on August 20, 2026. He was eighty-one. Born there on October 30, 1944, he grew up knowing the river as a workplace, not a backdrop, and the mill as a clock that did not flatter anyone who waited for mild weather. He learned a beater room before he learned a highway.

He spent thirty-eight years in the paper mill, first as a helper, later as the man who could hear a bad roll before the gauge admitted it. He did not advertise. Foremen called him because he would tell an owner the truth about a felt even when the truth postponed a shift. He charged a fair hour on the side when a church van needed a lift more than a sermon. He kept a notebook of machines, not clients.

He married Elaine Tibbetts in 1966. They raised a son and a daughter in a house that smelled of wool and coffee. Elaine kept the library. Clifford grilled on Sundays and considered a plate of baked beans a seasonal obligation. After the mill slowed he repaired small engines in a shed and refused to charge a widow what the parts actually cost.

Friends remember a man who wiped his hands before he shook yours, who could stand in a noise without making it a personality, and who left a floor cleaner than he found it. He loved a quiet porch at dusk, a cup of coffee that was never quite hot enough, and the late light on the wet brick. He died in Augusta, in the cold he had always said you could live with if you buttoned your coat. The mill is someone else's story now. The care he practiced there is harder to replace than a shift.

Services

A service in Augusta, then coffee. A gift to a mill-town pantry or a high-school shop program suits him.

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