



Clora Mae Ledbetter

December 22, 1946 - August 18, 2026
Asheville, North Carolina

Clora Mae Ledbetter died in Asheville on August 18, 2026. She was seventy-nine. Born there on December 22, 1946, she grew up knowing a mill as a clock that did not sleep, and she learned a loom before she learned a highway. A warp, she said, is a kind of sentence: it has to arrive complete.

She spent thirty years in a plant that fed cases before daylight. She started as a helper. She ended as the woman who trained new hands that a rejected bolt is not a verdict on a life. She kept a drawer of extra shuttles and a privately updated list of which lasts actually satisfied which inspector, because the published list was always a week behind the truth. When the office put in a machine that was supposed to replace a person, she learned the machine and then taught it manners.

She married Floyd Ledbetter in 1967. They raised a son and a daughter in a bungalow that needed storm windows. After Floyd died in 2009 she still sat with neighbors who had to renew something and did not know where to start.

Friends remember a woman who would stay seven minutes past closing for a person who had taken two buses, who hated a messy stamp pad, and who said you're fine in a way that actually meant the work would get done. She died in Asheville, among hills she had never needed to explain. The line is someone else's now.

Services

A funeral in Asheville, then a hall with coffee. A gift to a mill-workers' fund is welcome.

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