



Cora Belle Venable

September 17, 1940 - August 29, 2026

Dodge City, Kansas

Cora Belle Venable died in Dodge City on August 29, 2026. She was eighty-five. Born there on September 17, 1940, she grew up knowing the stockyards as a clock and a weather report. The wind wrote the rest. She learned a scale before she learned a necktie. She became a yards clerk because a load that waits is a kind of insult, and because she liked a job whose mistakes were immediately visible.

For thirty-three years she kept cattle moving that other people only blamed on the weather. She arrived early. She did not advertise. Buyers called her because she would tell the truth about a pen even when the truth postponed a sale. She charged a fair hour on the side when a widow's fence needed more mercy than a feedlot. She kept a notebook of lots, not clients.

She married Floyd Venable in 1961. They raised two children in a frame house that needed a new porch every twenty years. Floyd kept the hardware counter. Cora grilled on Sundays and considered a plate of fried chicken a seasonal obligation. After she retired she still came out when a neighbor's auger died, moving slower, charging less.

Friends remember a woman who left a scale house cleaner than she found it, who could stand in a noise without making it a personality, and who loved a quiet porch at dusk. She died in Dodge City, in the city whose yards had written her calendar. The pens still open. Someone else will hear the sound that means trouble.

Services

Visitation in Dodge City, then a simple service. A gift to a stockyards-workers' fund or a youth livestock program is welcome.

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