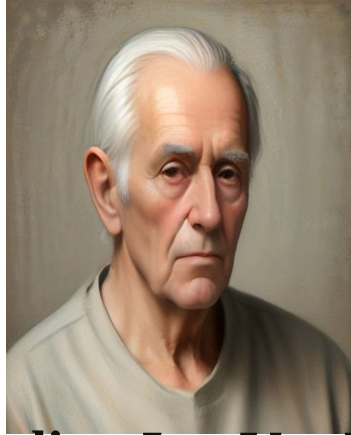




Cornelius Jan VanBuren

October 4, 1939 - August 8, 2026

Rochester, Minnesota

Cornelius Jan VanBuren died in Rochester on August 8, 2026. He was 86. Born in Rochester on October 4, 1939, with Dutch-American roots that shaped the table more than the flag. He learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

He counted ore tickets in wind that came off the lake like a verdict. A wool scarf outlasted winters; dockworkers tipped their caps. Colleagues still mention a wool scarf that outlasted winters.

He married Elsie in 1966. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised a daughter through public schools and ordinary weather. After Elsie died in 2019, he kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember a porch light left on for anyone walking home late. He liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. He died in Rochester, among streets he never needed to explain. The extra coffee is still in the thermos.

Services

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

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