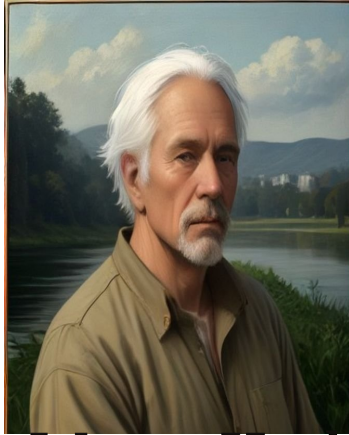




Delbert Wayne Huckleberry

December 9, 1946 - August 22, 2026

Evansville, Indiana

Delbert Wayne Huckleberry died in Evansville on August 22, 2026. He was seventy-nine. Born there on December 9, 1946, he grew up knowing the river as a clock and a weather report. His father worked the lock. Delbert learned a gate before he learned a necktie. He became a lockman because a tow that waits is a kind of insult, and because he liked a job whose mistakes were immediately visible.

For thirty-one years he kept barges moving that other men only blamed on the Ohio. He arrived early. He did not advertise. Pilots called him because he would tell the truth about a gate even when the truth postponed a lockage. He charged a fair hour on the side when a widow's outboard needed more mercy than a marina. He kept a notebook of stages, not clients.

He married Beverly Huckleberry in 1968. They raised two children in a frame house that needed a new porch every twenty years. Beverly kept the library desk. Delbert grilled on Sundays and considered a plate of catfish a seasonal obligation. After he retired he still came out when a neighbor's auger died, moving slower, charging less.

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 lock wall cleaner than he found it. He loved a quiet porch at dusk, a glass of tea he did not finish, and the sound of a tow that had decided to live. He died in Evansville, in the city whose river had written his calendar. The lock still opens. Someone else will hear the sound that means trouble.

Services

Visitation in Evansville, then a simple service. A gift to a river-safety program or a youth fishing fund is

welcome.

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