



Delois Annette Crumpton

April 16, 1947 - September 5, 2026

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Delois Annette Crumpton died in Tuscaloosa on September 5, 2026. She was seventy-nine. She was born in the same city on April 16, 1947, in a house that sat close enough to the Black Warrior that children learned the river's smell before they learned a highway. Her mother pressed church dresses for other women. Delois learned that a hot plate left on a porch is a form of keeping people upright.

She spent twenty-seven years in a university dining hall that fed students who treated gravy as a weather report. She started on the dish line. She ended as the woman who could tell, from the sound of a steam table, whether the rice would hold through a late exam week. She kept a second carton of milk for the night-shift kid who arrived after the count. She would not let a vendor invent a portion that made the register a liar.

She married Ellis Crumpton in 1968. He drove a laundry truck and died in 2008. They raised a daughter and a son in a bungalow with a pecan that dropped more work than shade. After Ellis was gone she kept his saucer on the drainboard for a season, then gave it to a granddaughter who liked cereal at odd hours. She sang alto in a choir that rehearsed on Tuesdays whether anyone new showed up or not.

People on her block remember a woman who froze extra cornbread in coffee cans and left them after a funeral. She disliked a speech, loved a clean steam table, and could tell you which year the hall switched from square pizza to the round kind the students would actually finish. She died in Tuscaloosa, in heat she had always said was honest. The line still opens. Someone else will count the milk.

Services

A gathering at her church hall in Tuscaloosa. Friends may bring a covered dish. A gift to a campus meal fund is

welcome.

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