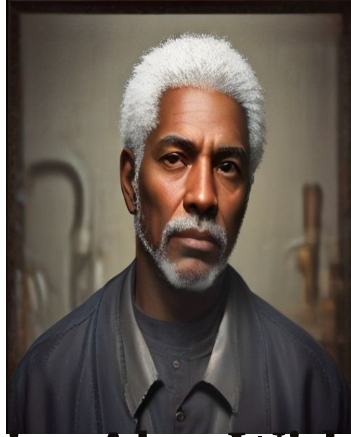




Demetrius Alan Witherspoon

October 30, 1959 - August 28, 2026

Canton, Ohio

Demetrius Alan Witherspoon died in Canton on August 28, 2026. He was sixty-six. Born there on October 30, 1959, he grew up knowing the mill as a clock that did not sleep, and he learned a torque spec before he learned a highway. A bolt, he said, is a promise: it holds, or the whole story comes apart in the dark.

For twenty-eight years he was a millwright, crawling under machines that other men only blamed. He arrived early. He did not advertise. Foremen called him because he would write up a cracked bearing even when the shift was already called. He charged a fair hour and a smaller one when a church van needed a lift more than a sermon. He kept a notebook of machines, not clients. The notebook had grease on the edges.

He married Anita Witherspoon in 1983. They raised a son and a daughter in a bungalow that needed a new roof more often than the budget admitted. Anita taught school. Demetrius packed lunches and considered a Sunday roast a civic obligation. After a bad afternoon he sat in the car with the radio off until his hands were quiet. He liked the Hall of Fame the way other men like a ballpark: as a civic habit, not a personality.

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 floor 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 motor that had decided to live. He died in Canton, in the city whose mill had written his calendar. The line still starts. Someone else will hear the knock that means trouble.

Services

Visitation in Canton, then a simple service. A gift to a trade-school scholarship or a mill-town food pantry is welcome.

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