



Dolores Ann Vukovich

May 6, 1950 - September 5, 2026

Akron, Ohio

Dolores Ann Vukovich died in Akron on September 5, 2026. She was seventy-six. Born there on May 6, 1950, she grew up knowing rubber as a rumor that paid and a time clock as a neighbor that never slept. She learned a durometer before she learned a campus. A tread, she said, is a story that has to be true twice.

She spent twenty-nine years as an inspector in a plant that fed cars the rest of the country drove without thinking. She walked aisles after a rush and kitchens after a pan left on a burner at home. She would not let a widow be rushed. She would not let a contractor invent a cathedral of overtime. After a bad afternoon she sat in the car with the radio off until her hands were quiet.

She married Raymond Vukovich in 1971. They raised a daughter in a two-family that needed storm windows and a son who needed a ride to band at hours no one should be awake. Raymond drove a bread truck. Dolores packed lunches and considered a Sunday roast a civic obligation. After he died in 2013 she kept the garden of tomatoes against the porch and the habit of sending a plate next door.

Friends remember a woman who showed up with soup as if that were the natural use of a Tuesday, who could explain a reject tag without making it a sermon, and who kept one good coat. She loved a quiet gallery at the art museum, a cup of coffee that was never quite hot enough, and the river when it looked like metal. She died in Akron, the rubber city she refused to narrate as a punch line. The line is closed. The fairness she practiced there is harder to replace than a bin number.

Services

A memorial in Akron. A gift to a plant-workers' fund or the public library suits her.

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