



Doris Elaine Torkelsen

January 7, 1932 - January 28, 2026

Topeka, Kansas

On January 28, 2026, Doris Elaine Torkelsen died at home in Topeka. She was 94. Born on January 7, 1932, with Scots-American roots that shaped the table more than the flag. From the start, she treated promises like tools: keep them sharp, do not lend them lightly.

She tended sifters until charts agreed and pride could return. A sifter brush hung by a nail lived in her station forever. Colleagues still mention a sifter brush hung by a nail.

She and Raymond married in 1956 and raised three daughters without needing an audience. After Raymond's death in 2019, she held to quiet habits-coffee before dawn, a tended yard, a voice on the phone that still checked in.

Neighbors remember a shovel borrowed and returned sharper. She preferred the hour before a town fully wakes. Topeka was home enough that she never rehearsed an introduction. The porch still expects a returning step.

What remains is not a legend but a practice: showing up, keeping a promise, leaving a place better than you found it. Her life was the kind America is built from and too often forgets to name.

Services

A quiet remembrance in Topeka. Those who wish may give to a neighborhood library, food pantry, or workers' aid fund instead of flowers.

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