



Dorothy June Pettengill

February 8, 1937 - September 7, 2026

Manchester, New Hampshire

Dorothy June Pettengill died in Manchester on September 7, 2026. She was eighty-nine. Born there on February 8, 1937, she grew up knowing the mills as a clock and the river as a weekday neighbor. She learned a loom alley before she learned a highway. A correct count, she said, is a form of respect when a building already has enough speeches.

She spent twenty years in the mills, then another eighteen as a school crossing guard who treated a wet morning as work, not weather. She kept extra mittens in a bag for the child whose morning had already been too long. When the district sent a new sign, she learned it and then taught it manners. She retired with a pin and a cake she tried to leave early.

She married Walter Pettengill in 1956. He fished until the body said otherwise, then mended gear in a shed that never quite closed. They raised a son and a daughter in a flat that smelled of wool and chowder. Walter died in 2009. Dorothy kept the walk to the river and the habit of bringing extra pencils to the crossing in January. She read the local paper with a pencil and voted in every storm.

Neighbors remember a woman who remembered your child's name, who brought whoopie pies at Christmas without announcing a tradition, and who could sit through a nor'easter warning without making it a personality. She loved a library sale, a good cup of coffee that was never quite hot enough, and the late light on the brick. She died in Manchester, in the salt air she had always said you could live with if you buttoned your coat. The corner is someone else's now. The patience she practiced there is harder to replace than a schedule.

Services

A service in Manchester, then coffee. A gift to a school crossing fund or the public library is welcome.

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