



Dragica Ana Petrovic

June 20, 1949 - September 1, 2026

Youngstown, Ohio

Dragica Ana Petrovic died in Youngstown on September 1, 2026. She was seventy-seven. Born there on June 20, 1949, to parents who had come from Belgrade by way of a long patience, she grew up in a city that still had mills at the edges and offices in the middle. She learned English at school and a second set of manners at the table. She never treated either language as a costume.

She spent twenty-six years in a mill cafeteria that fed people who argued about heats over gravy. 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 turn. 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 Milan Petrovic in 1971. He drove a mill truck and died in 2009. They raised a daughter and a son in a bungalow with a maple that dropped more work than shade. After Milan 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 pita 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 crews would actually finish. She died in Youngstown, 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 Youngstown. Friends may bring a covered dish. A gift to a mill-town meal fund

is welcome.

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