



Earline Fay Ladner

March 19, 1953 - September 1, 2026

Gulfport, Mississippi

Earline Fay Ladner died in Gulfport on September 1, 2026, at seventy-three. She was born there on March 19, 1953, in a house that smelled of salt and coffee. She learned the highway to the docks as a weekday neighbor long before it became a postcard. Her mother packed lunches for a crew that started before daylight.

She spent twelve years picking shrimp, then another sixteen running a laundry that served rooms she never stayed in. She started sorting. She ended as the woman who could tell, from the sound of a press, whether a lot would hold through a late checkout. She kept extra water without putting a note on the counter about generosity. When a storm closed the pass she made coffee until the urn complained.

She married Doyle Ladner in 1974. They raised a daughter in a bungalow that needed a new roof more often than the budget admitted. After Doyle died in 2017 she kept his chair for a year and then gave it to a nephew who needed a place to do homework.

Neighbors remember a woman who would jump a battery in a lot at dusk, who knew which intern needed a second explanation of the scale, and who could hear a rice pot without looking. She loved the first cool night after a hundred-degree week. She died in Gulfport, in heat she had always preferred to a heavy speech. The laundry is someone else's now.

Services

A gathering in Gulfport. The family welcomes a favorite hymn and a gift to a dock-workers' fund.

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