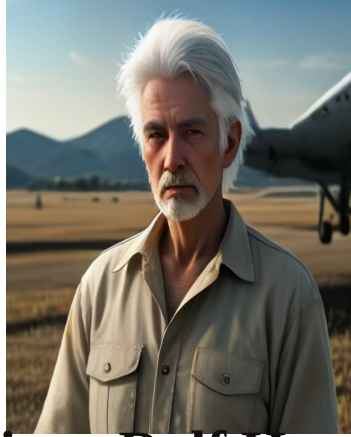




Einar Rolf Hauge

April 25, 1942 - August 16, 2026

Rapid City, South Dakota

Einar Rolf Hauge died in Rapid City on August 16, 2026. He was eighty-four. Born there on April 25, 1942, he grew up knowing an airfield as a weekday neighbor and a hill as a work schedule. His people had come from Vestland. He learned a splice before he learned a highway east.

For thirty-one years he kept civilian aircraft that other men only blamed. He arrived early. He did not advertise. Crew chiefs called him because he would write up a cracked line even when the flight was already promised. He kept a coffee can of stainless hardware and a refusal to charge a clinic what a catalog said a hose was worth. The work was a job, not a roll of honor, and he would have said so.

He married Ingrid Hauge in 1965. They raised two sons in a house that needed a new mudroom every decade. After his hands stiffened he still came out for a favorite ship, moving slower, swearing with more precision.

Friends remember a man who would jump a battery in a lot that looked like a glacier, who could sit through a long potluck without making the wind a personality, and who owned one good parka. He liked the hills in late April, when the snow finally argued with itself. He died in Rapid City, among rocks he had never needed to explain. The hangar light is off.

Services

A memorial in Rapid City. A gift to an airfield-mechanics' fund suits him.

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