



Elbridge Ames Cutler

October 9, 1938 - August 20, 2026

Burlington, Vermont

Elbridge Ames Cutler died in Burlington on August 20, 2026. He was eighty-seven. Born there on October 9, 1938, he grew up knowing a lumber yard as a clock that did not sleep, and he learned a ticket before he learned a highway. A board, he said, is a kind of sentence: it has to arrive complete.

He spent thirty-eight years selling other people's timber. He started on the cart. He ended as the man who trained new hands that a rejected stick is not a verdict on a life. He kept a privately updated list of which yards actually wanted which grades, because the published list was always a week behind the truth. When the office put in a machine that was supposed to replace a person, he learned the machine and then taught it manners.

He married Hester Cutler in 1960. They raised a son and a daughter in a triple-decker that needed storm windows. After Hester died in 2009 he still sat with neighbors who had to measure something and did not know where to start.

Friends remember a man who would stay seven minutes past closing for a person who had taken two buses, who hated a messy stamp pad, and who said you're fine in a way that actually meant the work would get done. He died in Burlington, in the brick city he refused to apologize for. The cart is someone else's now.

Services

A funeral in Burlington, then a hall with coffee. A gift to a mill-workers' fund or a literacy program is welcome.

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