



## Elnora Gail Hitchens

*May 6, 1951 - September 8, 2026*

Dover, Delaware

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Elnora Gail Hitchens died in Dover on September 8, 2026. She was seventy-five. Born there on May 6, 1951, she grew up on a peninsula that still meant a poultry line and a church bulletin, and she never treated either as a costume. Her mother packed lunches for a crew that started before daylight. Elnora learned that a clean stamp pad is a kind of welcome that does not require a speech.

She spent sixteen years in a plant that smelled of feathers and coffee, then another fourteen as a clerk who trained new hands that a rejected form is not a verdict on a life. She kept extra pens for the person whose morning had already been too long. She would not let a supervisor invent a rule that made the counter a liar. After a bad afternoon she sat in the stairwell with the radio off until her hands were quiet.

She married Clifton Hitchens in 1973. They raised a son and a daughter in a bungalow that needed a new roof more often than the budget admitted. After Clifton died in 2015 she kept his chair for a year and then gave it to a grandson who needed a place to do homework.

Neighbors remember a woman who would sit with a stranger until the aunt arrived from Milford, who hated a messy clipboard, and who said you're on time in a way that actually meant the work would get done. She died in Dover, in heat she had always said you could live with if you dressed for it. The counter is someone else's now.

### Services

A gathering in Dover. A gift to a plant-workers' fund or a Shore pantry is welcome.

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