



Elwood Dean Ketchum

September 3, 1944 - August 16, 2026

Pueblo, Colorado

Elwood Dean Ketchum died in Pueblo on August 16, 2026. He was eighty-one. Born there on September 3, 1944, he grew up hearing the mill before he understood a map. His father worked a furnace. Elwood learned that a heat is a promise: it holds, or the whole story comes apart in the dark.

For thirty-six years he ran a crane over a floor that other men only blamed. He arrived early. He did not advertise. Foremen called him because he would shut a lift even when the pour was already promised. He charged a fair hour and a smaller one when a church van needed a lift more than a sermon. He kept a notebook of machines, not clients. The notebook had grease on the edges.

He married Imogene Ketchum in 1966. They raised two sons in a bungalow that needed a new porch every twenty years. Imogene kept the garden and the choir. Elwood grilled on Sundays and considered a plate of smoked chicken a seasonal obligation. After his knees quit the worst pits he still came out for a favorite crane, moving slower, doing the same honest work.

Friends remember a man who wiped his hands before he shook yours, who could stand in a noise without making it a personality, and who left a floor cleaner than he found it. He loved the river at evening, a glass of tea he did not finish, and the sound of a machine that had decided to live. He died in Pueblo, in the city whose mill had written his calendar. The line still starts.

Services

Visitation in Pueblo, then a simple service. A gift to a mill-workers' assistance fund is welcome.

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