



Ernest Wayne Melancon

July 3, 1928 - May 11, 2026

Fargo, North Dakota

On May 11, 2026, Ernest Wayne Melancon died at home in Fargo. He was 97. Born in Fargo on July 3, 1928, into a Danish-American household that treated work as a language. He grew up believing that showing up was the first craft.

He climbed work that other people trusted without knowing his name. A tower light spare bulb case rode in his pocket like a spare prayer. Colleagues still mention a tower light spare bulb case.

He married Frances in 1950. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised a son and a daughter through public schools and ordinary weather. After Frances died in 2019, he kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember someone who swept the sidewalk past the property line when weather had been unfair. He preferred the hour before a town fully wakes. Fargo was home enough that he never rehearsed an introduction. The extra coffee is still in the thermos.

Services

A memorial gathering in Fargo with coffee afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a local workers' fund, clinic, or neighborhood library is welcome.

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