



Esther Lynn Vanderven

January 29, 1928 - October 8, 2025

Utica, New York

Family and neighbors in Utica mark the death of Esther Lynn Vanderven on October 8, 2025. She was 97. Born on January 29, 1928 and raised among Scots-American manners that never needed a speech. She grew up believing that showing up was the first craft.

She stitched cuffs until gauges agreed and pride could return. A cuff stitch gauge taped to the bench meant the next hand could trust the last. Colleagues still mention a cuff stitch gauge taped.

She and Frank married in 1955 and raised three daughters without needing an audience. After Frank's death in 2018, she held to quiet habits-coffee before dawn, a tended yard, a voice on the phone that still checked in.

Neighbors remember a rake leaned against a shared fence after a storm. Mornings were her favorite shift at home. She died in Utica, on streets that already knew her pace. The Sunday call still has a time slot in the house.

What remains is not a legend but a practice: showing up, keeping a promise, leaving a place better than you found it. Her life was the kind America is built from and too often forgets to name.

Services

A quiet remembrance in Utica. Those who wish may give to a neighborhood library, food pantry, or workers' aid fund instead of flowers.

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