



Evelyn Joyce Booker

July 29, 1944 - September 8, 2026

Salem, Oregon

Evelyn Joyce Booker died in Salem on September 8, 2026. She was 82. Born in Salem on July 29, 1944, with African American roots that shaped the table more than the flag. She learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

She worked nights when the halls were longest, plating trays that had to be hot and kind at once. She learned every allergy card by heart. Colleagues still mention a hairnet she washed every night.

She married Willie in 1967. 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 Willie died in 2019, she kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember someone who knew every child's name on the block. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Salem, among streets she never needed to explain. The radio is still tuned to the station that played while work got done.

Services

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

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