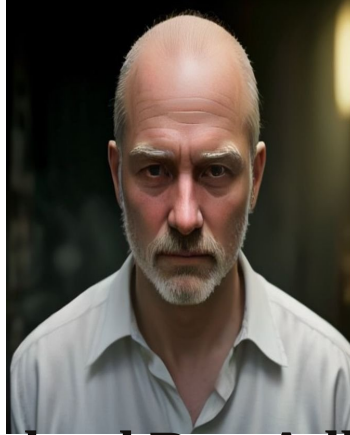




Garland Ray Adkins

June 23, 1949 - August 23, 2026

Huntington, West Virginia

Garland Ray Adkins died in Huntington on August 23, 2026. He was seventy-seven. Born there on June 23, 1949, he grew up knowing glass as a rumor that paid and a furnace as a neighbor that never slept. He learned a pontil before he learned a highway. Heat, he said, is a set of rules that do not care how late you are for supper.

He spent thirty-one years as a furnace man, first as a groundman, later as the man who would climb when a wet wind had already made the job a rumor. He did not romanticize the work. He said a night outage was a country with its own weather. He taught younger crews that a shield is not a suggestion, and that you do not leave a batch for the next shift to find in the dark. He charged a fair hour and a smaller one when a widow's storm window needed more mercy than a tariff.

He married Denise Adkins in 1972. They raised two daughters in a ranch house that needed a new stove every few winters. Denise kept the books for a cousin's garage. Garland grilled in the driveway and considered a Marshall loss a private grief. After he retired he still came out when a neighbor's well pump died, moving slower, carrying the same seriousness.

Friends remember a man who checked the sky before he checked his watch, who could sit through a long offering at church without looking at a phone, and who hummed while he worked as if the furnace were a conversation. He loved the late light on the Ohio, a plate of beans he did not finish, and the particular quiet after the glass came back. He died in Huntington, under the hills that had always been in the window. The furnaces still close a shift. Someone else will climb the next one.

Services

A service in Huntington. A gift to a glass-workers' memorial fund or a neighborhood pantry suits him.

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