



Geneva Pearl Bland

June 8, 1937 - August 11, 2026

Norfolk, Virginia

Geneva Pearl Bland died in Norfolk on August 11, 2026. She was 89. Born on June 8, 1937, 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 painted hulls that would leave without her. A paint-spattered scarf held her hair; the yard learned she showed up early and left paint where it belonged. Colleagues still mention a paint-spattered scarf for her hair.

She married Clarence in 1961. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised two sons through public schools and ordinary weather. After Clarence died in 2019, she 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. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Norfolk, among streets she never needed to explain. The porch still expects a returning step.

Services

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

NN-OBIT-2026-C346

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