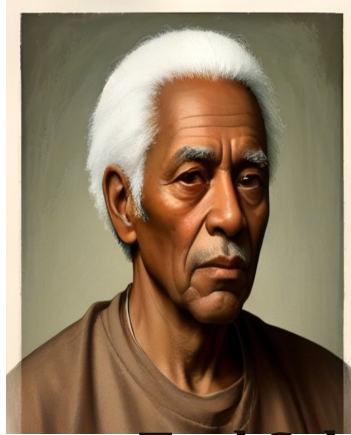




George Earl Schaft

December 10, 1938 - August 14, 2026

Roanoke, Virginia

George Earl Schaft died in Roanoke on August 14, 2026. He was 87. Born on December 10, 1938, with African American roots that shaped the table more than the flag. He learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

He painted hulls that would leave without him. A paint-spattered scarf held his hair; the yard learned he showed up early. Colleagues still mention a paint-spattered scarf for his hair.

He married Ruth in 1960. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised two sons through public schools and ordinary weather. After Ruth 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 liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. He died in Roanoke, among streets he never needed to explain. The garden will come up next spring without being told.

Services

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

NN-OBIT-2026-C465

<https://noticenearby.com/obituaries/george-earl-schaft-obituary-roanoke-va>

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