



## George Earl Vandermeer

*December 10, 1937 - August 14, 2026*

Norfolk, Virginia

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George Earl Vandermeer died in Norfolk on August 14, 2026. He was 88. Born on December 10, 1937, with Dutch-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 1959. 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 coffee offered before questions. He liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. He died in Norfolk, among streets he never needed to explain. The recipe card is still stained in the useful places.

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

### 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.

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