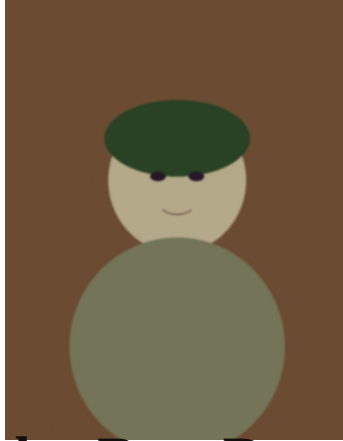




Gladys Bess Degrasse

July 13, 1952 - July 28, 2025

Jacksonville, Florida

Gladys Bess Degrasse, 73, of Jacksonville, died on July 28, 2025. Born on July 13, 1952 and raised among Czech-American manners that never needed a speech. From the start, she treated promises like tools: keep them sharp, do not lend them lightly.

She kept ice that held festivals and piecework with equal care. A shrimp ice house thermometer chalked outlasted two captains. Colleagues still mention a shrimp ice house thermometer chalked.

She and Edward married in 1979 and raised two sons without needing an audience. After Edward's death in 2018, she held to quiet habits-coffee before dawn, a tended yard, a voice on the phone that still checked in.

Neighbors remember snow shoveled past the corner that was not required. She preferred the hour before a town fully wakes. Jacksonville was home enough that she never rehearsed an introduction. The calendar still has a circle on payday.

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

Services

A quiet remembrance in Jacksonville. Those who wish may give to a neighborhood library, food pantry, or workers' aid fund instead of flowers.

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