



Gladys Bess Rowbottom

September 10, 1934 - February 26, 2021

Providence, Rhode Island

Providence lost Gladys Bess Rowbottom on February 26, 2021. She was 86. Born in Providence on September 10, 1934; Finnish-American cooking and payday thrift set the tone of the house. She learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

She loaded retorts that smelled of piecework and care. A retort basket loader glove clip labeled twice rebuilt more trust than memos. Colleagues still mention a retort basket loader glove clip.

In 1960 she married Edward. The marriage was not a speech; it was groceries, repairs, and one son walked to school in weather that did not care. When Edward died in 2014, she kept what still worked: the early walk, the small garden, the call on Sundays.

Neighbors remember a jumper cable offered before the tow truck was dialed. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Providence, among streets she never needed to explain. The chair by the window still holds the shape of a habit.

Services

Services in Providence will be simple: stories, coffee, and the names of people who showed up. Flowers optional; support for a local clinic or trade scholarship preferred.

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