



Halina Maria Kowalski

October 27, 1943 - September 3, 2026

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Halina Maria Kowalski died in Grand Rapids on September 3, 2026. She was 82. Born on October 27, 1943, with Polish-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 rubbed stain into wood until color became character. A can labeled by hand sat on her bench; she could match a customer's memory of a table from childhood. Colleagues still mention a can of stain labeled by hand.

She married Stanislaw in 1967. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised a son through public schools and ordinary weather. After Stanislaw died in 2019, she kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember coffee offered before questions. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Grand Rapids, among streets she never needed to explain. The extra coffee is still in the thermos.

Services

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

NN-OBIT-2026-C322

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