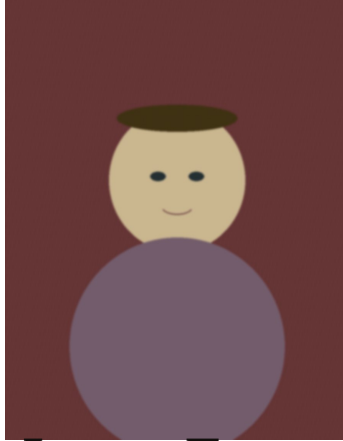




# Harold James Fenstermaker

*January 1, 1928 - June 1, 2025*

Birmingham, Alabama

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Harold James Fenstermaker, 97, of Birmingham, died on June 1, 2025. Born in Birmingham on January 1, 1928; Dutch-American cooking and payday thrift set the tone of the house. He learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

He worked barge tows that moved grain when rivers argued with schedules. A barge whistle lanyard worn thin meant payday still answered. Colleagues still mention a barge whistle lanyard worn thin.

He married Helen in 1953. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised two sons through public schools and ordinary weather. After Helen died in 2018, he kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember a wave from the driveway that meant you were seen. He preferred the hour before a town fully wakes. Birmingham was home enough that he never rehearsed an introduction. The Sunday call still has a time slot in the house.

## Services

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

NN-OBIT-2026-C841

<https://noticenearby.com/obituaries/harold-james-fenstermaker-obituary-birmingham-al>

On-chain proof: <https://noticenearby.com/obituaries/harold-james-fenstermaker-obituary-birmingham-al/proof>

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