



Harold Lee Crutchfield

November 5, 1935 - June 13, 2020

Birmingham, Alabama

Birmingham lost Harold Lee Crutchfield on June 13, 2020. He was 84. Born November 5, 1935 in Birmingham, carrying German-American stories that arrived without footnotes. Young, he understood that quiet competence outlasts loud plans.

He worked fleets that argued with current and schedules. A barge deck grease rag labeled with shifts meant payday still answered. Colleagues still mention a barge deck grease rag labeled with shifts.

In 1961 he married Dorothy. The marriage was not a speech; it was groceries, repairs, and two daughters walked to school in weather that did not care. When Dorothy died in 2013, he 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. He preferred the hour before a town fully wakes. Birmingham was home enough that he never rehearsed an introduction. The tools are still hung where a hand can find them in the dark.

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

Services in Birmingham 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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