



Harriet Louise Braxton

April 16, 1938 - September 6, 2026

Annapolis, Maryland

Harriet Louise Braxton died in Annapolis on September 6, 2026. She was eighty-eight. Born there on April 16, 1938, she grew up knowing the harbor as work and the Academy as a neighbor that never quite introduced itself. She learned a typewriter before the schools were finished arguing about who could sit where. A clean letter, she said, does not care who is holding the paper.

She spent thirty-one years as a secretary in a municipal office that did not look like the brochures. She typed the dock lists, the quiet lists of people who needed a property date and would not ask, and the quieter lists of people who needed a ride to a hearing. She did not put her name on a committee. She put other people's names in the right order. When a director left in a hurry she kept the keys and the coffee until the next one learned which door stuck.

She married Louis Braxton in 1959. They bought a row house that needed storm windows and a daughter who needed a ride to the library. Louis drove a city truck. Harriet kept the choir and the rule that you do not start eating until the person who cooked sits down. After the office slowed she volunteered at a clinic that needed someone who could still read a label at speed.

Friends remember a woman who shoveled more than her own walk, who could name every hymn of 1963 if you made the mistake of doubting her, and who sat on the stoop in October as if the block were a committee. She loved a Friday fish, a clean bench, and the creek when it looked like steel. She died in Annapolis, the small capital she refused to apologize for. The letters are someone else's now. The care she practiced there is harder to replace than a protocol.

Services

A service in Annapolis, then a hall with coffee. A gift to a clinic or a girls' office-skills fund is welcome.

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