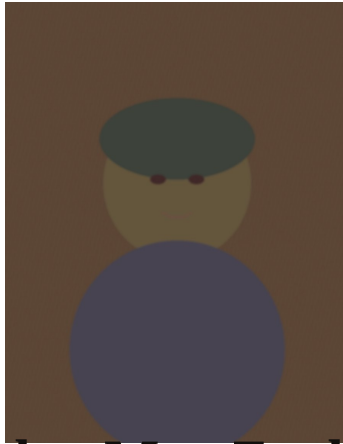




Helen Mae Zooker

December 4, 1939 - August 18, 2025

Las Cruces, New Mexico

Helen Mae Zooker of Las Cruces died on August 18, 2025 at the age of 85. She was born on December 4, 1939 in a Irish-American family that measured love in finished chores. Young, she understood that quiet competence outlasts loud plans.

She worked machines that never held still. A fleshing machine glove liner dried by the stove taught waiting. Colleagues still mention a fleshing machine glove liner.

She married Ralph in 1961. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised three sons through public schools and ordinary weather. After Ralph died in 2018, she kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember quiet help with a stuck mailbox or a heavy trash can. She preferred the hour before a town fully wakes. Las Cruces was home enough that she never rehearsed an introduction. The Sunday call still has a time slot in the house.

What remains is not a legend but a practice: showing up, keeping a promise, leaving a place better than you found it. Her life was the kind America is built from and too often forgets to name.

Services

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

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