



Henrietta Mae Bowie

March 19, 1936 - August 8, 2026

Cumberland, Maryland

Henrietta Mae Bowie died in Cumberland on August 8, 2026. She was 90. Born in Cumberland on March 19, 1936, into a African American household that treated work as a language. She learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

She moved freight on paper before it moved on steel. A timetable pencil stub outlasted computers; she filed delays without blaming the weather out loud. Colleagues still mention a timetable pencil stub.

She married Walter in 1961. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised two daughters through public schools and ordinary weather. After Walter died in 2019, she kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember someone who knew every child's name on the block. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Cumberland, among streets she never needed to explain. The tools are still hung where a hand can find them in the dark.

Services

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

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