



Herbert Earl Withington

January 17, 1932 - July 13, 2026

Charleston, West Virginia

Herbert Earl Withington, 94, of Charleston, died on July 13, 2026. Born in Charleston on January 17, 1932, into a Jewish-American household that treated work as a language. From the start, he treated promises like tools: keep them sharp, do not lend them lightly.

He mixed paint where strangers would drive without knowing his name. A paint mixer paddle for under-bridges was his end-of-day amen. Colleagues still mention a paint mixer paddle.

In 1955 he married Mildred. The marriage was not a speech; it was groceries, repairs, and two sons walked to school in weather that did not care. When Mildred died in 2019, he kept what still worked: the early walk, the small garden, the call on Sundays.

Neighbors remember someone who knew every child's name on the block. He preferred the hour before a town fully wakes. Charleston was home enough that he never rehearsed an introduction. The key is still under the same brick.

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 Charleston 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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