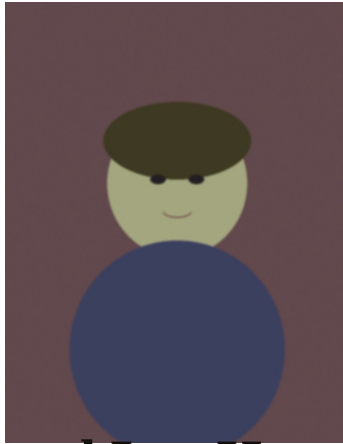




Howard Lee Hartranft

May 8, 1936 - May 12, 2026

Cumberland, Maryland

On May 12, 2026, Howard Lee Hartranft died at home in Cumberland. He was 90. He was born on May 8, 1936 in a Slovak-American family that measured love in finished chores. Early on, he decided that a paycheck and a handshake should weigh the same.

He painted pipe that had to look inevitable on racks. A pipe yard paint brush wrapped meant tomorrow would not invent grades. Colleagues still mention a pipe yard paint brush wrapped.

He and Dorothy married in 1960 and raised two daughters without needing an audience. After Dorothy's death in 2019, he held to quiet habits-coffee before dawn, a tended yard, a voice on the phone that still checked in.

Neighbors remember a shovel borrowed and returned sharper. He liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. He died in Cumberland, among streets he never needed to explain. 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. His life was the kind America is built from and too often forgets to name.

Services

A quiet remembrance in Cumberland. Those who wish may give to a neighborhood library, food pantry, or workers' aid fund instead of flowers.

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