



Howard Roy Vandergrift

July 11, 1942 - August 11, 2026

Houston, Texas

Friends in Houston remember Howard Roy Vandergrift, who died on August 11, 2026 at 84. Born in Houston on July 11, 1942, into a Icelandic-American household that treated work as a language. He grew up believing that showing up was the first craft.

He watched filters that kept summers from inventing thirst. A pool filter wrench never left the wall within reach. Colleagues still mention a pool filter wrench.

In 1965 he married Patricia. The marriage was not a speech; it was groceries, repairs, and a son and a daughter walked to school in weather that did not care. When Patricia 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. Mornings were his favorite shift at home. He died in Houston, on streets that already knew his pace. The porch still expects a returning step.

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 Houston 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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