



Ila Fay Withrow

August 2, 1939 - September 2, 2026

Charleston, West Virginia

Ila Fay Withrow died in Charleston on September 2, 2026. She was 87. Born in Charleston on August 2, 1939, into a Appalachian household that treated work as a language. She learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

She turned hours into checks that fed hollows. An adding-machine ribbon saved for lean months; miners trusted her math more than rumor. Colleagues still mention an adding-machine ribbon she saved.

She married Earl in 1964. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised a son through public schools and ordinary weather. After Earl died in 2019, she kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember a rake leaned against a shared fence after a storm. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Charleston, among streets she never needed to explain. The chair by the window still holds the shape of a habit.

Services

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

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