



Ingrid Solveig Nilsen

June 9, 1947 - September 2, 2026

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Ingrid Solveig Nilsen died in Minneapolis on September 2, 2026. She was seventy-nine. Born there on June 9, 1947, she grew up in a house where Norwegian was for the kitchen and English was for the street, and she kept both. She became a public-health nurse because the county was hiring and because she had already learned, at home, how to stand next to worry without making it a performance.

She spent most of her working life in a clinic that did not look like the brochures. Home visits, weekends, the hallway that smelled of antiseptic and coffee. She was the nurse who taught new aides that a doorbell is not an interruption. She retired later than she meant to because the caseload was short and she did not like leaving a family in worse shape than she found it. She never put RN on her checks. She put her name.

She married Erik Nilsen in 1970. He worked at the mill until the mill became a story people told about other decades. They raised a son and a daughter in a bungalow that needed a new porch every twenty years. Erik died in 2012. Ingrid kept the garden of tomatoes against the garage and the habit of bringing krumkake to the nurses who had once been her students. She watched the lakes freeze with a loyalty that did not require poetry.

Friends remember a woman who would sit with a stranger's mother until the daughter arrived from Duluth, who hated a messy bag, and who said "we're fine" in a way that actually meant the work would get done. She died in Minneapolis, in a late-summer week that still had heat in the brick. The wind off the lakes continues. She always said that was the city's way of telling you to button your coat and go anyway.

Services

A funeral in Minneapolis, then a reception with coffee. A gift to a visiting-nurse fund or a nursing scholarship is

welcome.

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