



Irene Fay Cochran

March 7, 1949 - August 25, 2026

Camden, New Jersey

Irene Fay Cochran died in Camden on August 25, 2026. She was 77. Born in Camden on March 7, 1949, with African American roots that shaped the table more than the flag. She learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

She sewed seams that held through wash and worry. A pincushion worn to the cloth sat by her machine; piece rates never made her rush a hem. Colleagues still mention a pincushion worn to the cloth.

She married Willie in 1972. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised a son through public schools and ordinary weather. After Willie died in 2019, she kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember a wave from the driveway that meant you were seen. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Camden, among streets she never needed to explain. The extra coffee is still in the thermos.

Services

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

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