



Irene Pearl Gorski

April 19, 1956 - September 2, 2026

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Irene Pearl Gorski died in Milwaukee on September 2, 2026. She was seventy. Born there on April 19, 1956, on the south side, she grew up knowing the brewery whistle as a clock. Her mother packed lunches. Irene learned a line the way other girls learned a recital: you stand in one place, you do not drop what you are holding, and you go home tired.

She spent twenty-eight years on a bottling line, then a few more in a quality room that smelled of cardboard and soap. She could hear a bad filler before the gauge admitted it. She did not call herself an engineer. She called herself employed, which she treated as a moral category. When the company changed names she kept the same locker and the same thermos. Younger women came to her because she would tell them if a supervisor was bluffing.

She married Stan Gorski in 1978. They bought a bungalow that needed storm windows and a son who needed a ride to hockey at hours no one should be awake. Stan drove a city bus. Irene kept the bowling league and the rule that you do not start eating until the person who cooked sits down. After the line slowed she worked a bakery counter at dawn and still brought paczki to the plant picnic as if she had never left.

Friends remember a woman who shoveled more than her own walk, who could name every Brewer of 1982 if you made the mistake of doubting her, and who sat on the porch in October as if the block were a committee. She loved a Friday fish fry, a clean alley, and the lake when it looked like steel. She died in Milwaukee, the city she refused to narrate as a punch line. The bottles still move. She would have liked that the work outlasted the shift.

Services

A Mass on the south side, then a hall with coffee and sweets. A gift to a food pantry or a union scholarship is welcome.

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