



Irene Rae Flinchum

December 27, 1944 - August 13, 2017

Wilmington, Delaware

Irene Rae Flinchum died in Wilmington on August 13, 2017. She was 72. Born December 27, 1944 in Wilmington, carrying Dutch-American stories that arrived without footnotes. Young, she understood that quiet competence outlasts loud plans.

She jointed staves that would hold other people's years. An oak stave jointer plane chalked meant the next hand could trust the last. Colleagues still mention an oak stave jointer plane chalked.

In 1970 she married Harold. The marriage was not a speech; it was groceries, repairs, and two sons and a daughter walked to school in weather that did not care. When Harold died in 2010, she kept what still worked: the early walk, the small garden, the call on Sundays.

Neighbors remember coffee offered before questions. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Wilmington, among streets she never needed to explain. The recipe card is still stained in the useful places.

What remains is not a legend but a practice: showing up, keeping a promise, leaving a place better than you found it. Her life was the kind America is built from and too often forgets to name.

Services

Services in Wilmington 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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