



Izetta Mae Rohrbach

December 3, 1949 - September 2, 2026

Hagerstown, Maryland

Izetta Mae Rohrbach died in Hagerstown on September 2, 2026, at seventy-six. She came into the world in the same valley on December 3, 1949, when a Saturday still meant a sewing machine left on a porch and a church bulletin that functioned as a legal document. Her mother took in alterations. Izetta learned that a seam is either true or it is a lie you will wear all day.

Twenty-seven years of her life went into a garment loft that smelled of sizing and coffee. She began on buttons. She finished as the woman who could hear a skipped stitch before the inspector wrote it down. She kept extra thimbles for the girl whose fingers were still learning the cold. She refused a count that made the ticket a fiction. When the office installed a machine meant to erase a person, she learned the machine and then required it to behave.

She married Harold Rohrbach in 1970. They raised a son and a daughter in a brick bungalow that needed storm windows more often than the budget admitted. Harold drove a parts truck. Izetta packed lunches that could survive a climb in heat. After he died in 2013 she kept his chair through one winter and then gave it to a nephew who needed a place to do homework.

People on her street remember a woman who would hem a funeral dress overnight without calling it a favor, who hated a crooked label, and who could sit through a long meeting the way other people sit through weather. She liked the first cool night after a humid week. She died in Hagerstown, among hills she had never needed to explain. The loft is someone else's. The patience is not.

Services

A gathering in Hagerstown. A gift to a garment-workers' fund or a valley pantry is welcome.

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