



Kirsti Marie Aasland

November 2, 1946 - August 25, 2026

Spokane, Washington

Kirsti Marie Aasland died in Spokane on August 25, 2026. She was seventy-nine. Born there on November 2, 1946, to parents who had come from Vestland by way of a long patience, she grew up in a city that still had pots at the edges and offices in the middle. She learned English at school and a second set of manners at the table. She never treated either language as a costume.

She spent twenty-seven years in an aluminum-plant lab that treated a sample as a promise: it holds, or the whole story comes apart in the dark. She started washing glass. She ended as the woman who could tell, from the color of a melt, whether a lot would hold through a late inspector. She kept extra coffee for the kid whose morning had already been too long. She would not sign a burn that made the ticket a liar.

She married Arne Aasland in 1968. They raised a son and a daughter in a bungalow that needed a new mudroom every decade. After Arne died in 2013 she still sat with neighbors who had to renew something and did not know where to start.

Neighbors remember a woman who swept her sidewalk and yours if the wind had been unfair, who kept a coffee can of measuring spoons labeled in two languages, and who could sit through a graduation without making it about herself. She liked the river early, before the heat. She died in Spokane, among pines she had never needed to explain. The extra coffee is still in the thermos.

Services

A memorial in Spokane with tea afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a lab-workers' fund is welcome.

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