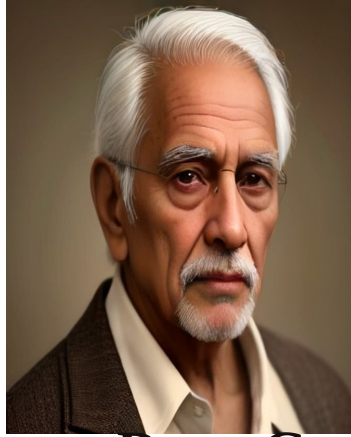




Lester Dean Gupta

January 19, 1951 - August 18, 2026

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Lester Dean Gupta died in Chattanooga on August 18, 2026. He was 75. He was born on January 19, 1951 in a Indian-American family that measured love in finished chores. He grew up believing that showing up was the first craft.

He stacked steel boxes into puzzles the railroad could keep. A yard radio with spare battery never left his belt. Colleagues still mention a yard radio with spare battery.

He married Margaret in 1973. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised a son and a daughter through public schools and ordinary weather. After Margaret died in 2019, he kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember a shovel borrowed and returned sharper. He liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. He died in Chattanooga, among streets he never needed to explain. The porch still expects a returning step.

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

Services

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

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