



Lorraine Jean Seabrook

January 13, 1946 - September 2, 2026

Wilmington, North Carolina

Lorraine Jean Seabrook died in Wilmington on September 2, 2026. She was eighty. Born there on January 13, 1946, she grew up knowing the river as a weekday neighbor, and she learned a card catalog before she learned a highway. A correct call number, she said, is a form of respect.

She spent thirty-four years as a public librarian, typing the overdue list, the quiet list of children who needed a ride and would not ask, and the quieter list of children who needed a book that was not on the approved shelf. She did not put her name on a committee. She put other people's names in the right order. When a director left in a hurry she kept the keys and the coffee and the calendar until the next one learned which door stuck.

She married Howard Seabrook in 1967. He sold insurance and died in 2005. They raised a son and a daughter who still argue about who got the last piece of caramel cake. Lorraine kept the garden of camellias, and the habit of leaving a casserole on a porch without a speech. She sat through long meetings the way other people sit through weather.

Grandchildren remember a woman who corrected their thank-you notes more than their homework, who kept a biscuit tin of paper clips, and who could name every clerk in the building by the mug she no longer used. She died in Wilmington, in the heat she had always said you could live with if you dressed for it. The library is someone else's now. The patience she practiced there is harder to replace than a catalog.

Services

A funeral in Wilmington with one familiar hymn, sung slowly. A gift to a public-library fund is welcome.

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