



Louise Annette Prather

February 17, 1944 - September 4, 2026

Montgomery, Alabama

Louise Annette Prather died in Montgomery on September 4, 2026. She was eighty-two. She was born in the same city on February 17, 1944, in a shotgun house that sat close enough to the railroad that children learned to pause their sentences when a freight went through. Her mother pressed church dresses for other women. Louise learned early that a hot meal is a form of keeping people upright.

She spent twenty-eight years in the Montgomery Public Schools kitchens, first washing hotel pans that never quite came clean, later running the breakfast line at a brick elementary east of town. She kept a second carton of milk for the child who arrived after the count. She seasoned commodity beans as if the warehouse had meant them to taste like something. On the mornings the buses ran late she still opened the steam table, because a closed kitchen does not explain itself to a hungry eight-year-old.

She married Ellis Prather in 1965. He drove a laundry truck and died in 2003. They raised a daughter and a son in a bungalow with a pecan that dropped more work than shade. After Ellis was gone she kept his saucer on the drainboard for a season, then gave it to a granddaughter who liked cereal at odd hours. She sang alto in a choir that rehearsed on Wednesdays whether anyone new showed up or not.

People on her block remember a woman who would freeze extra cornbread in coffee cans and leave them on porches after a funeral. She disliked a speech, loved a clean steam table, and could tell you which year the district switched from square pizza to the round kind the children would actually finish. She died in Montgomery, in heat she had always said was honest. The line still opens. Someone else will count the milk.

Services

A gathering at her church hall in Montgomery. Friends may bring a covered dish. A gift to a school breakfast fund is welcome.

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