



Mable Irene Crowe

March 18, 1939 - September 8, 2026

Charleston, West Virginia

Mable Irene Crowe died in Charleston on September 8, 2026. She was eighty-seven. Born in a coal camp that later lost its post office, on March 18, 1939, she grew up knowing a company store as a kind of weather, and she learned a bandage before she learned a highway. A clean dressing, she said, is a form of respect.

She spent thirty years as a nurse's aide in clinics that had more patience than they had equipment. She did not call herself a nurse. She called herself the person who stayed. She knew which miner would not admit pain and which child needed a second blanket without being asked twice. When a shift went long she still came back the next morning because she did not trust a chart the way she trusted her own hand on a wrist.

She married Lester Crowe in 1958. He worked the seam and died in 1986. They raised four children in a house that grew a porch and then a second porch because the first one filled with cousins. Mable kept the garden of beans, and the habit of sending a plate next door when she cooked too much, which was most evenings.

Grandchildren remember a woman who corrected their manners more than their homework, who kept a biscuit tin of thread, and who could name every ridge on the drive to town by the creek it shed. She died in Charleston, in the river city she had always said was enough map. The clinic light is someone else's now. The patience she practiced there is harder to replace than a protocol.

Services

A service in Charleston, then food in the hall. A gift to a clinic or a black-lung fund suits her.

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