



Marian Gay Eshleman

February 17, 1954 - June 12, 2026

Manchester, New Hampshire

In Manchester, on June 12, 2026, Marian Gay Eshleman died at 72. Born in Manchester on February 17, 1954, into a Appalachian Scots household that treated work as a language. Early on, she decided that a paycheck and a handshake should weigh the same.

She reconditioned drums that had to look inevitable on docks. A drum reconditioning scraper kit preferred work over speeches. Colleagues still mention a drum reconditioning scraper kit.

In 1977 she married Milton. The marriage was not a speech; it was groceries, repairs, and three children walked to school in weather that did not care. When Milton died in 2019, she kept what still worked: the early walk, the small garden, the call on Sundays.

Neighbors remember a porch light left on for anyone walking home late. She preferred the hour before a town fully wakes. Manchester was home enough that she never rehearsed an introduction. The work gloves still keep the shape of a grip.

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

Services

Services in Manchester will be simple: stories, coffee, and the names of people who showed up. Flowers optional; support for a local clinic or trade scholarship preferred.

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