



Marlys Ann Knutson

October 19, 1946 - September 3, 2026

Aberdeen, South Dakota

Marlys Ann Knutson died in Aberdeen on September 3, 2026. She was seventy-nine. Born there on October 19, 1946, she grew up knowing the elevator as a clock and a weather report. She learned a scale before she learned a necktie. She became a clerk because a load that waits is a kind of insult, and because she liked a job whose mistakes were immediately visible.

For thirty-three years she kept grain moving that other people only blamed on the weather. She arrived early. She did not advertise. Buyers called her because she would tell the truth about a bin even when the truth postponed a sale. She charged a fair hour on the side when a widow's auger needed more mercy than an elevator. She kept a notebook of lots, not clients.

She married Floyd Knutson in 1966. They raised two children in a frame house that needed a new porch every twenty years. Floyd kept the hardware counter. Marlys grilled on Sundays and considered a plate of fried chicken a seasonal obligation. After she retired she still came out when a neighbor's auger died, moving slower, charging less.

Friends remember a woman who left a scale house cleaner than she found it, who could stand in a noise without making it a personality, and who loved a quiet porch at dusk. She died in Aberdeen, in the city whose elevators had written her calendar. The bins still open. Someone else will hear the sound that means trouble.

Services

Visitation in Aberdeen, then a simple service. A gift to an elevator-workers' fund or a youth livestock program is welcome.

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