



Martha Rae Fitzhenry

March 20, 1954 - July 9, 2025

Wilmington, Delaware

Family and neighbors in Wilmington mark the death of Martha Rae Fitzhenry on July 9, 2025. She was 71. Born on March 20, 1954 and raised among Swedish-American manners that never needed a speech. She grew up believing that showing up was the first craft.

She jointed staves that would hold other people's years. An oak stave jointer plane chalked meant the next hand could trust the last. Colleagues still mention an oak stave jointer plane chalked.

She and Frank married in 1981 and raised one son without needing an audience. After Frank's death in 2018, she held to quiet habits-coffee before dawn, a tended yard, a voice on the phone that still checked in.

Neighbors remember a rake leaned against a shared fence after a storm. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Wilmington, among streets she never needed to explain. The porch still expects a returning step.

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

A quiet remembrance in Wilmington. Those who wish may give to a neighborhood library, food pantry, or workers' aid fund instead of flowers.

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