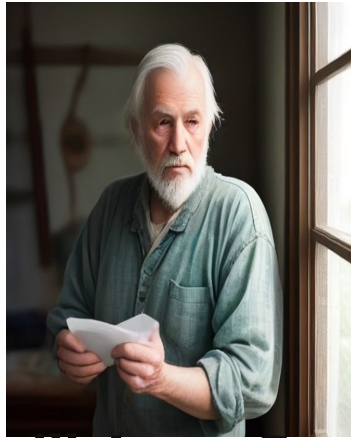




Merrill Ames Crockett

July 3, 1946 - August 22, 2026

Bangor, Maine

Merrill Ames Crockett died in Bangor on August 22, 2026. He was eighty. Born there on July 3, 1946, he learned the river before he learned a trade. His father worked the paper mill. Merrill worked it too, then the beater room, then whatever job would keep a man indoors in a city that does not flatter anyone who waits for mild weather.

He spent decades moving pulp, checking screens, and teaching younger men that steam on a ladder is not a story you tell afterward if you have been careful. He did not romanticize the work. He said the Penobscot was beautiful from a hill and dangerous from a deck, and that both facts could be true before breakfast.

He married Elaine Crockett in 1968. They kept a house up the hill from the mill and a camp they almost never finished painting. Two sons grew up knowing how to bait a hook and how to be quiet in a boat. Elaine taught school. Merrill packed her lunches with the same seriousness he packed a toolbox. After he retired he walked the river path in every month except the ones when the wind made walking a kind of argument.

Friends remember a dry laugh, a refusal to own more than one good coat, and a habit of showing up to help move a freezer as if that were the natural use of a Saturday. He could name the boats of his youth and would stop himself before the list became a lecture. He died in the city whose pulp and weather had written his calendar. The mill still breathes. He would have liked that the work outlasted the man.

Services

Visitation in Bangor, followed by a simple service. A walk along the river afterward, weather allowing.

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