



Nadine Louise Cartwright

January 26, 1952 - September 7, 2026

Norfolk, Virginia

Nadine Louise Cartwright died in Norfolk on September 7, 2026. She was seventy-four. Born there on January 26, 1952, she grew up knowing the harbor as a weekday neighbor and the yard as a rumor that paid. She learned a file cabinet before she learned a highway. A correct requisition, she said, is a form of respect when a building already has enough speeches.

She spent twenty-nine years as a civilian clerk at the Navy yard, typing the lists, the quiet lists of people who needed a badge date and would not ask, and the quieter lists of people who needed a ride. She did not wear a uniform and this page will not invent one. She put other people's names in the right order. When a supervisor left in a hurry she kept the keys and the coffee until the next one learned which drawer stuck.

She married Howard Cartwright in 1973. He drove a city bus and died in 2014. They raised a son and a daughter who still argue about who got the last piece of caramel cake. Nadine kept the garden of cannas, and the habit of leaving a casserole on a porch without a speech. She sat through long meetings the way other people sit through weather.

Grandchildren remember a woman who corrected their thank-you notes more than their homework, who kept a biscuit tin of paper clips, and who could name every clerk in the building by the mug she no longer used. She died in Norfolk, in the heat she had always said you could live with if you dressed for it. The files are someone else's now. The patience she practiced there is harder to replace than a typewriter.

Services

A funeral in Norfolk with one familiar hymn, sung slowly. A gift to a civilian-yard assistance fund is welcome.

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