



Norma Rae Witmer

August 8, 1936 - August 12, 2026
Yakima, Washington

Friends in Yakima remember Norma Rae Witmer, who died on August 12, 2026 at 90. Born August 8, 1936 in Yakima, carrying Lebanese-American stories that arrived without footnotes. Early on, she decided that a paycheck and a handshake should weigh the same.

She spliced rope that would not forgive a bad lay. A splice shop marlinspike wiped taught apprentices to wait. Colleagues still mention a splice shop marlinspike wiped.

She and Floyd married in 1963 and raised a daughter and two sons without needing an audience. After Floyd's death in 2019, she held to quiet habits-coffee before dawn, a tended yard, a voice on the phone that still checked in.

Neighbors remember snow shoveled past the corner that was not required. Mornings were her favorite shift at home. She died in Yakima, on streets that already knew her pace. The tools are still hung where a hand can find them in the dark.

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 Yakima. Those who wish may give to a neighborhood library, food pantry, or workers' aid fund instead of flowers.

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