



Odile Marie Broussard

August 9, 1950 - September 12, 2026

Lafayette, Louisiana

Odile Marie Broussard died in Lafayette on September 12, 2026. She was seventy-six. Born there on August 9, 1950, she grew up knowing rice as a rumor that paid and a church bulletin as a legal document. She learned a steam table before she learned a highway. A tray, she said, is a kind of sentence: it has to arrive complete.

She spent eighteen years in a mill that smelled of hulls and coffee, then another decade running a school kitchen that fed children who treated gravy as a weather report. She started washing hotel pans that never quite came clean. She ended as the woman who could tell, from the sound of a pan, whether the rice would hold through a late bus. She kept extra milk without making a speech about it. When a storm closed the mill she still opened the kitchen, because weather is not an excuse to skip a meal.

She married Alcide Broussard in 1971. He sold insurance and died in 2008. They raised a son and a daughter who still argue about who got the last piece of cake. Odile 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 auntie in the sanctuary by the hat she no longer wore. She died in Lafayette, in the heat she had always said you could live with if you dressed for it. The kitchen is someone else's now.

Services

A funeral in Lafayette with one familiar hymn, sung slowly. A gift to a church benevolence fund is welcome.

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