



## Opal Jean Cresswell

*March 19, 1939 - September 2, 2026*

Miami, Florida

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Opal Jean Cresswell died in Miami on September 2, 2026. She was 87. Born in Miami on March 19, 1939, with African American roots that shaped the table more than the flag. She learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

She plated banquets that had to look inevitable. A whisk bent from decades of sauce still lived by the stove. Colleagues still mention a whisk bent from decades of sauce.

She married Clarence in 1962. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised three children through public schools and ordinary weather. After Clarence died in 2019, she kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember a wave from the driveway that meant you were seen. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Miami, among streets she never needed to explain. The extra coffee is still in the thermos.

### Services

A memorial gathering in Miami with coffee afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a local workers' fund, clinic, or neighborhood library is welcome.

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