



Patricia Ann Mulcahy

April 4, 1951 - August 28, 2026

Providence, Rhode Island

Patricia Ann Mulcahy died in Providence on August 28, 2026. She was seventy-five. Born there on April 4, 1951, she grew up knowing the jewelry district as a weekday smell of solvent and coffee, and she learned a bench before she learned a campus. A stone, she said, does not care who is wearing it if the prong is lazy.

She spent twenty years at a bench, then a few more in a hospital dietary kitchen because the hours were kinder and the work was the same: make a tray complete and do not put your name on it. She could hear a bad solder before the gauge admitted it. She did not call herself an artist. She called herself employed, which she treated as a moral category. Younger women came to her because she would tell them if a supervisor was bluffing.

She married Sean Mulcahy in 1973. They bought a triple-decker that needed storm windows and a son who needed a ride to hockey at hours no one should be awake. Sean drove a city bus. Patricia kept the bowling league and the rule that you do not start eating until the person who cooked sits down. After the bench slowed she still brought leftover rolls to the night shift as if she had never left.

Friends remember a woman who shoveled more than her own walk, who could name every Red Sox of 1975 if you made the mistake of doubting her, and who sat on the stoop in October as if the block were a committee. She loved a Friday fish, a clean alley, and the bay when it looked like steel. She died in Providence, the small state she refused to narrate as a punch line. The trays still move. She would have liked that the work outlasted the shift.

Services

A Mass in Providence, then a hall with coffee. A gift to a food pantry or a union scholarship is welcome.

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