



Persis Hale Wentworth

June 27, 1940 - August 30, 2026

Concord, New Hampshire

Persis Hale Wentworth died in Concord on August 30, 2026. She was eighty-six. Born there on June 27, 1940, she grew up knowing a statehouse as a clock that did not sleep, and she learned a mailroom before she learned a highway. A frank, she said, is a kind of honesty: it shows what you hid or it does not.

She spent thirty-six years sorting other people's business. She started on the cart. She ended as the woman who trained new hands that a rejected envelope is not a verdict on a life. She kept a privately updated list of which offices actually wanted which forms, because the published list was always a week behind the truth. When the office put in a machine that was supposed to replace a person, she learned the machine and then taught it manners.

She married Ames Wentworth in 1962. They raised a son and a daughter in a triple-decker that needed storm windows. After Ames died in 2005 she still sat with neighbors who had to renew something and did not know where to start.

Friends remember a woman who would stay seven minutes past closing for a person who had taken two buses, who hated a messy stamp pad, and who said you're fine in a way that actually meant the work would get done. She died in Concord, in the granite city she refused to apologize for. The cart is someone else's now.

Services

A funeral in Concord, then a hall with coffee. A gift to a literacy program is welcome.

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