



Russell Dale Sokolov

January 7, 1941 - August 18, 2026

Asheville, North Carolina

Russell Dale Sokolov died in Asheville on August 18, 2026. He was 85. Born in Asheville on January 7, 1941, into a Russian-American household that treated work as a language. He learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

He rubbed stain into wood until color became character. A can labeled by hand sat on his bench; he could match a customer's memory of a table. Colleagues still mention a can of stain labeled by hand.

He married Betty in 1967. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised a son through public schools and ordinary weather. After Betty died in 2019, he kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember covered dishes that arrived without a speech. He liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. He died in Asheville, among streets he never needed to explain. The key is still under the same brick.

Services

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

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