



Setsuko Ann Dunlavy

February 1, 1932 - January 30, 2026
Sacramento, California

In Sacramento, on January 30, 2026, Setsuko Ann Dunlavy died at 93. She was born on February 1, 1932 in a Japanese-American family that measured love in finished chores. Young, she understood that quiet competence outlasts loud plans.

She led a line that smelled of piecework and care. A pitter lead apron clip labeled twice rebuilt more trust than memos. Colleagues still mention a pitter lead apron clip.

In 1955 she married Kenji. The marriage was not a speech; it was groceries, repairs, and three daughters walked to school in weather that did not care. When Kenji died in 2019, she kept what still worked: the early walk, the small garden, the call on Sundays.

Neighbors remember a porch light left on for anyone walking home late. Mornings were her favorite shift at home. She died in Sacramento, on streets that already knew her pace. The tools are still hung where a hand can find them in the dark.

What remains is not a legend but a practice: showing up, keeping a promise, leaving a place better than you found it. Her life was the kind America is built from and too often forgets to name.

Services

Services in Sacramento will be simple: stories, coffee, and the names of people who showed up. Flowers optional; support for a local clinic or trade scholarship preferred.

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