



Siobhan Clare McTavish

November 2, 1944 - September 4, 2026

Bridgeport, Connecticut

Siobhan Clare McTavish died in Bridgeport on September 4, 2026. She was eighty-one. Born there on November 2, 1944, she grew up above a shop her uncle still called the shop, and she learned a first-aid kit before she learned a campus. A bandage, she said, is a story that has to be true twice: once for the person and once for the shift.

She spent twenty-nine years as a factory nurse in a plant that made things the brochures later pretended had always been clean. She walked aisles after a rush and kitchens after a pan left on a burner at home. She did not enjoy the work the way a woman usually enjoys a hobby. She enjoyed finishing it correctly. She would not let a widow be rushed toward a form she had not chosen. She would not let a supervisor invent a cathedral of overtime. After a bad afternoon she sat in the stairwell with the radio off until her hands were quiet.

She married Paul McTavish in 1966. They raised a daughter in a two-family that needed storm windows and a son who needed a ride to CYO at hours no one should be awake. Paul drove a bread truck. Siobhan packed lunches and considered a Sunday roast a civic obligation. After he died in 2011 she kept the garden of tomatoes against the porch and the habit of sending a plate next door.

Friends remember a woman who showed up with soup as if that were the natural use of a Tuesday, who could explain a workers' slip without making it a sermon, and who kept one good coat. She loved a quiet gallery at the university, a cup of coffee that was never quite hot enough, and the Sound when it looked like pewter. She died in Bridgeport, the brick city she refused to narrate as a punch line. The clinic is closed. The fairness she practiced there is harder to replace than a procedure.

Services

A funeral Mass in Bridgeport. A gift to a parish pantry or a factory-workers' clinic fund suits her.

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