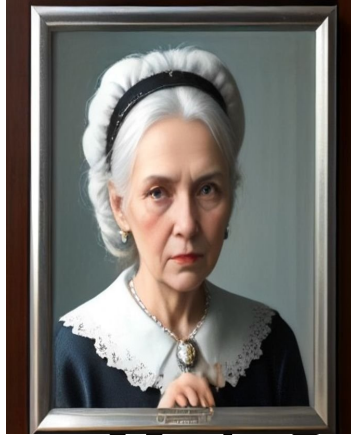




Stanislaw Maria Gorzynski

October 28, 1941 - August 20, 2026
Springfield, Illinois

Stanislaw Maria Gorzynski died in Springfield on August 20, 2026. She was eighty-four. Born there on October 28, 1941, to parents who had come from Kraków by way of a long patience, she grew up in a capital that still had files at the edges and speeches in the middle. She learned English at school and a second set of manners at the table. She never treated either language as a costume.

She spent thirty-four years as a file clerk in a state office that smelled of toner and coffee. She was the adult who could sit with a form without making a production of it. She kept extra clips in a drawer for the intern whose morning had already been too long. When the office sent a new form, she translated it twice: once into English a tired citizen could use, and once into the quiet that says you are not in trouble for needing help.

She married Jan Gorzynski in 1962. They bought a bungalow in a neighborhood that later became expensive around them. They stayed. A son and a daughter went through public schools she trusted more than she trusted real-estate talk. After Jan died in 2009 she kept the garden of beets and the habit of walking a neighbor's child to the bus when a shift ran late.

Neighbors remember a woman who swept her sidewalk and yours if the wind had been unfair, who kept a coffee can of paper clips labeled in two languages, and who could sit through a graduation without making it about herself. She liked the capitol lawn early, before the heat. She died in Springfield, the only city she had ever needed. The extra clips are still in the drawer.

Services

A memorial in Springfield with tea afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a literacy program is welcome.

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