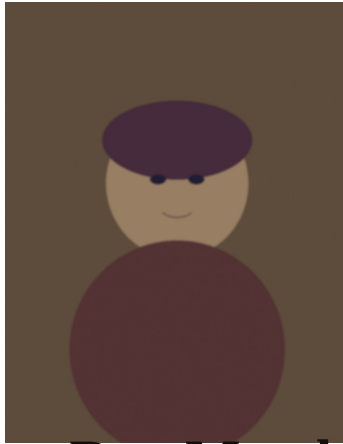




Stanley Ray Mendenhall

November 3, 1934 - March 2, 2004

Wichita, Kansas

Family and neighbors in Wichita mark the death of Stanley Ray Mendenhall on March 2, 2004. He was 69. Born on November 3, 1934 and raised among English-American manners that never needed a speech. He grew up believing that showing up was the first craft.

He led a shed that smelled of piecework and care. A shucker lead apron clip labeled rebuilt more trust than memos. Colleagues still mention a shucker lead apron clip labeled.

He and Alice married in 1961 and raised two daughters without needing an audience. After Alice's death in 1997, he held to quiet habits-coffee before dawn, a tended yard, a voice on the phone that still checked in.

Neighbors remember a rake leaned against a shared fence after a storm. Mornings were his favorite shift at home. He died in Wichita, on streets that already knew his pace. The garden will come up next spring without being told.

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

Services

A quiet remembrance in Wichita. Those who wish may give to a neighborhood library, food pantry, or workers' aid fund instead of flowers.

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