



Thelma Grace Chaudhry

July 19, 1940 - September 4, 2026

Dubuque, Iowa

Thelma Grace Chaudhry died in Dubuque on September 4, 2026. She was 86. She was born on July 19, 1940 in a Pakistani-American family that measured love in finished chores. She learned that neighborhoods remember who helps without being asked.

She weighed harvests that decided winters. A grain probe wiped clean nightly was honesty you could hold. Colleagues still mention a grain probe wiped clean nightly.

She married Kenneth in 1962. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised three daughters through public schools and ordinary weather. After Kenneth died in 2019, she kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember someone who swept the sidewalk past the property line when weather had been unfair. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Dubuque, among streets she never needed to explain. The porch still expects a returning step.

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

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

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