



Thelma Jean Washington

July 21, 1938 - August 9, 2026

Washington, District of Columbia

Thelma Jean Washington died in Washington on August 9, 2026. She was 88. Born on July 21, 1938, raised among African American manners that never needed a speech. She learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

She made change for badges and briefcases with equal courtesy. A drawer balanced by feel meant the day was honest; regulars knew her smile before her name. Colleagues still mention a change drawer she balanced by feel.

She married George in 1964. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised two daughters through public schools and ordinary weather. After George 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 Washington, among streets she never needed to explain. The tools are still hung where a hand can find them in the dark.

Services

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

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