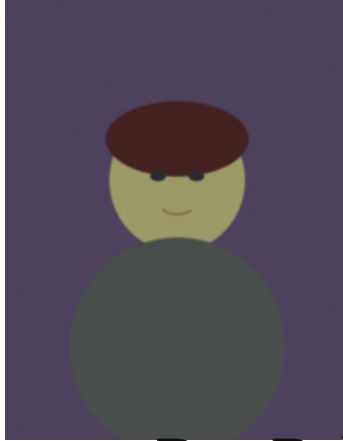




Vernon Ray Byler

May 11, 1933 - January 21, 2026

Utica, New York

On January 21, 2026, Vernon Ray Byler died at home in Utica. He was 92. He was born on May 11, 1933 in a Italian-American family that measured love in finished chores. From the start, he treated promises like tools: keep them sharp, do not lend them lightly.

He tended hoppers that shook the plant into a rhythm. An ash hopper poke bar wrapped preferred work over speeches. Colleagues still mention an ash hopper poke bar wrapped.

He and Joyce married in 1957 and raised a son and a daughter without needing an audience. After Joyce's death in 2019, he held to quiet habits-coffee before dawn, a tended yard, a voice on the phone that still checked in.

Neighbors remember a shovel borrowed and returned sharper. He preferred the hour before a town fully wakes. Utica was home enough that he never rehearsed an introduction. The chair by the window still holds the shape of a habit.

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 Utica. Those who wish may give to a neighborhood library, food pantry, or workers' aid fund instead of flowers.

NN-OBIT-2026-C993

<https://noticenearby.com/obituaries/vernon-ray-byler-obituary-utica-ny>

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