



Vernon Ray Westervelt

November 17, 1954 - March 12, 2026

Tucson, Arizona

On March 12, 2026, Vernon Ray Westervelt died at home in Tucson. He was 71. He was born on November 17, 1954 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 split shakes that would hold other people's roofs. A cedar shake splitting free oiled nightly kept hurry honest. Colleagues still mention a cedar shake splitting free oiled nightly.

He and Betty married in 1978 and raised a son and a daughter without needing an audience. After Betty'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. Mornings were his favorite shift at home. He died in Tucson, on streets that already knew his pace. 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. His life was the kind America is built from and too often forgets to name.

Services

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

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