



Winifred Claire Bostwick

June 14, 1948 - September 6, 2026

Medford, Oregon

Winifred Claire Bostwick died in Medford on September 6, 2026. She was seventy-eight. Born there on June 14, 1948, she grew up knowing pears as a rumor that paid and a packing line as a neighbor that never slept. She learned a grade sheet before she learned a campus. A box, she said, is a story that has to be true twice.

She spent twenty-nine years in a packing house that fed grocery cases the rest of the country ate without thinking. She walked aisles after a rush and kitchens after a pan left on a burner at home. She would not let a widow be rushed. She would not let a contractor invent a cathedral of overtime. After a bad afternoon she sat in the car with the radio off until her hands were quiet.

She married Raymond Bostwick in 1970. They raised a daughter in a two-family that needed storm windows and a son who needed a ride to 4-H at hours no one should be awake. Raymond drove a bread truck. Winifred packed lunches and considered a Sunday roast a civic obligation. After he died in 2012 she kept the garden of tomatoes against the porch and the habit of sending a plate next door.

Friends remember a woman who showed up with soup as if that were the natural use of a Tuesday, who could explain a reject tag without making it a sermon, and who kept one good coat. She loved a quiet gallery at the museum, a cup of coffee that was never quite hot enough, and the Rogue when it looked like metal. She died in Medford, the orchard city she refused to narrate as a punch line. The line is closed. The fairness she practiced there is harder to replace than a bin number.

Services

A memorial in Medford. A gift to a packing-house fund or the public library suits her.

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