



Yvonne Claire VanMeter

July 25, 1951 - September 8, 2026

Kalamazoo, Michigan

Yvonne Claire VanMeter died in Kalamazoo on September 8, 2026. She was seventy-five. Born there on July 25, 1951, she grew up knowing the pharmaceutical plant as a clock that did not sleep, and she learned a lot number before she learned a highway. A correct label, she said, is a form of respect.

She spent twenty-four years as a packer and then a line clerk in a building that smelled of toner and coffee. She was the person who could sit with a form without making a production of it. She kept extra water in a drawer for the person whose morning had already been too long. When a lot came back, she translated it twice: once into English a tired crew could use, and once into the quiet that says you are not in trouble for needing help. She would not let a widow be rushed. She would not let a number invent a life.

She married Calvin VanMeter in 1973. They bought a bungalow in a neighborhood that later became expensive around them. They stayed. A son and a daughter went through public schools she trusted more than she trusted real-estate talk. After Calvin died in 2018 she kept the garden of mint and the habit of walking a neighbor's child to the bus when a shift ran late.

Neighbors remember a woman who swept her sidewalk and yours if the wind had been unfair, who kept a coffee can of measuring spoons, and who could sit through a graduation without making it about herself. She liked the creek early, before the heat, when the trees still looked like a place a person could walk. She died in Kalamazoo, the only city she had ever needed. The extra water is still in the drawer. That would have pleased her more than a eulogy.

Services

A memorial in Kalamazoo with tea afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a clinic sliding-scale fund is welcome.

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