



Carlos Miguel Santos

February 7, 1944 - August 21, 2026

Modesto, California

Carlos Miguel Santos died in Modesto on August 21, 2026. He was 82. Born in Modesto on February 7, 1944, with Filipino-American roots that shaped the table more than the flag. He learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

He rubbed stain into wood until color became character. A can labeled by hand sat on his bench; he could match a customer's memory of a table. Colleagues still mention a can of stain labeled by hand.

He married Elena in 1971. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised a son and a daughter through public schools and ordinary weather. After Elena died in 2019, he kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember a rake leaned against a shared fence after a storm. He liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. He died in Modesto, among streets he never needed to explain. The recipe card is still stained in the useful places.

Services

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

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