



Carmen Isabel Reyes

April 22, 1961 - September 6, 2026

Sacramento, California

Carmen Isabel Reyes died in Sacramento on September 6, 2026. She was sixty-five. Born there on April 22, 1961, she grew up in a valley that still had orchards at the edges and offices in the middle. She learned English at school and a second set of manners at the table. She never treated either language as a costume.

She spent a decade as a translator at a motor-vehicle window, then sixteen years as a school-office aide in a building that smelled of crayons and toner. She was the adult who could sit with a form without making a production of it. She kept extra snacks in a drawer for the child whose morning had already been too long. When the district sent a new form, she translated it twice: once into English a tired parent could use, and once into the quiet that says you are not in trouble for needing help.

She married Daniel Reyes in 1983. 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 Daniel died in 2020 she kept the garden of peppers 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 buttons labeled in two languages, and who could sit through a graduation without making it about herself. She liked the river early, before the heat, when the trees still looked like a place a person could walk. She died in Sacramento, the only city she had ever needed. The extra snacks are still in the drawer. That would have pleased her more than a eulogy.

Services

A memorial in Sacramento with tea afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a school supply closet or adult English class is welcome.

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