



Catalina Rosa Villalpando

May 30, 1958 - September 4, 2026

Modesto, California

Catalina Rosa Villalpando died in Modesto on September 4, 2026. She was sixty-eight. Born there on May 30, 1958, to parents who had come from Jalisco by way of a long patience, she grew up in a valley that still had tomatoes 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 sixteen years in a cannery that started before daylight, then another decade at a WIC counter where she translated forms 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 kept extra snacks in a drawer for the child whose morning had already been too long.

She married Arturo Villalpando in 1980. 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 Arturo died in 2023 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 valley early, before the heat. She died in Modesto, among orchards she had never needed to explain. The extra snacks are still in the drawer.

Services

A memorial in Modesto with tea afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a clinic supply closet or adult English

class is welcome.

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