



Ernesto Luis Valdez

September 7, 1952 - August 28, 2026

Duluth, Minnesota

Ernesto Luis Valdez died in Duluth on August 28, 2026. He was 73. Born in Duluth on September 7, 1952, into a Mexican-American household that treated work as a language. He learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

He counted ore tickets in wind that came off the lake like a verdict. A wool scarf outlasted winters; dockworkers tipped their caps. Colleagues still mention a wool scarf that outlasted winters.

He married Sofia in 1976. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised a son through public schools and ordinary weather. After Sofia died in 2019, he kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember quiet help with a stuck mailbox or a heavy trash can. He liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. He died in Duluth, among streets he never needed to explain. The porch still expects a returning step.

Services

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

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