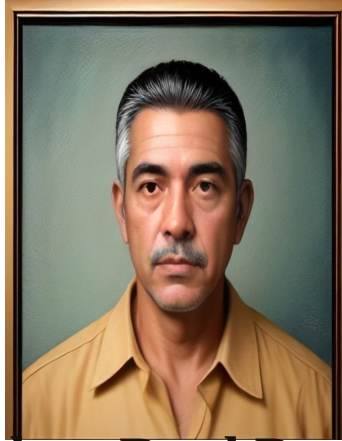




Esteban Raul Paredes

March 11, 1961 - September 3, 2026

Las Vegas, Nevada

Esteban Raul Paredes died in Las Vegas on September 3, 2026. He was sixty-five. Born there on March 11, 1961, he grew up knowing the Strip as a weather system and the valley as a workday neighbor. He learned a chiller before he learned a campus. A leak, he said, is a kind of sentence: it has to be found without making the next one worse.

He spent twenty-four years as a hotel engineer, first on a night shift that smelled of burnt coffee, later as the calm voice that sent a cart toward a floor when the air turned. He did not shout into a radio. He repeated a room number until the person on the other end had it. Crews trusted him because he would tell them when he did not know, which is rarer than bravery. After a bad afternoon he sat in the loading dock with the door up until his hands were quiet.

He married Luz Paredes in 1986. They raised a daughter and a son in a house with a view of the hills and a garden that was half tomatoes and half argument. Luz worked at the clinic. Esteban grilled on Sundays and considered chile a food group. After the hotel years he never quite sat still: church breakfasts, a cousin's roof, the league's snack stand that he restocked out of his own pocket and then denied.

Neighbors remember a man who smelled like solder and soap, who could tell when a slump was fear, and who appeared at a high-school game years later as if no time had passed. He loved the desert at evening, a plate he did not finish, and the sound of a clean repair. He died in Las Vegas, the valley city that had always been enough map. The plant still runs. Someone else will take the next call.

Services

A memorial in Las Vegas with photographs and one short song. A gift to a school or a clinic suits him.

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