



## Estrella Carmen Figueredo

*August 9, 1960 - August 30, 2026*

Orlando, Florida

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Estrella Carmen Figueredo died in Orlando on August 30, 2026. She was sixty-six. Born there on August 9, 1960, to parents who had come from Havana by way of a long patience, she grew up in a city that still had groves 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 twenty-two years making beds at a motor court off Colonial, then another decade keeping the night desk for people who arrived late from the interstate with a child asleep in the back seat. She kept extra blankets without putting a note on the counter about generosity. When a storm closed the airports she made coffee until the urn complained. She treated a long line of tourists as weather you could live with if you kept moving.

She married Rafael Figueredo in 1982. They raised a daughter in a bungalow with an orange tree that dropped fruit on the neighbor's car and an apology that always arrived with a bag of the same fruit. Rafael drove a delivery van. Estrella packed lunches that could survive humidity. After he died in 2018 she kept his chair for a year and then gave it to a grandson who needed a place to do homework.

Neighbors remember a woman who brought pastelitos to a night shift without staying for thanks, who knew which intern needed a second explanation, and who could hear a rice pot without looking. She loved a late-summer tomato, a clean map of the room rack, and the particular quiet after the last key was returned. She died in Orlando, in the heat she had always preferred to a clean cold. The desk is still moving. Someone else will count the keys.

### Services

A gathering in Orlando in the evening. A gift to a hospitality-workers' fund suits her.

NN-OBIT-2026-C190

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