



Eulalia Carmen Benitez

December 5, 1953 - August 26, 2026

Fort Myers, Florida

Eulalia Carmen Benitez died in Fort Myers on August 26, 2026, at seventy-two. She was born in Tampa on December 5, 1953, to parents who had come from Havana by way of a patience that did not advertise. She grew up in a city that still had packing sheds 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 fifteen years in a citrus shed, then another twelve running a motel linen room that served rooms she never stayed in. She started sorting. She ended as the woman who could tell, from the sound of a press, whether a lot would hold through a late checkout. She kept extra water without putting a note on the counter about generosity. When a storm closed the pass she made coffee until the urn complained.

She married Isidoro Benitez in 1975. They raised a daughter in a bungalow that needed a new roof more often than the budget admitted. After Isidoro died in 2018 she kept his chair for a year and then gave it to a nephew who needed a place to do homework.

Neighbors remember a woman who would jump a battery in a lot at dusk, who knew which intern needed a second explanation of the scale, and who could hear a rice pot without looking. She loved the first cool night after a hundred-degree week. She died in Fort Myers, in heat she had always preferred to a heavy speech. The linen room is someone else's now.

Services

A gathering in Fort Myers. The family welcomes a favorite hymn and a gift to a packing-shed fund.

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