



Fatima Isabel Medeiros

June 11, 1954 - August 22, 2026

Providence, Rhode Island

Fatima Isabel Medeiros died in Providence on August 22, 2026. She was seventy-two. Born there on June 11, 1954, to parents who had come from São Miguel by way of a long patience, she grew up in a city that still had benches 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-three years at a jewelry bench that started before daylight. She started as a helper. She ended as the woman who could tell, from the sound of a saw, whether a lot would hold through a late boat. She kept extra coffee for the setter whose morning had already been too long. She would not let a buyer invent a grade that made the scale a liar. After a bad afternoon she sat in the stairwell with the radio off until her hands were quiet.

She married Jorge Medeiros in 1976. They bought a triple-decker 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 waterfront talk. After Jorge died in 2019 she kept the garden of kale 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 measuring spoons labeled in two languages, and who could sit through a graduation without making it about herself. She liked the harbor early, before the heat. She died in Providence, the only city she had ever needed. The extra coffee is still in the thermos.

Services

A memorial in Providence with tea afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a bench-workers' fund or adult English class is welcome.

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