



Hector Manuel Quiroga

April 11, 1957 - August 30, 2026

Las Vegas, Nevada

Hector Manuel Quiroga died in Las Vegas on August 30, 2026. He was sixty-nine. Born there on April 11, 1957, he grew up knowing the Strip as a neighbor that never slept, and he learned a dish room before he learned a classroom. A plate, he said, is a kind of promise: it has to come back clean or the whole story is late.

He spent twenty-eight years as a hotel steward, first washing, later running a night crew that kept banquet rooms from becoming rumors. He did not romanticize the work. He said a night shift was a country with its own weather. He taught younger men that a towel count is not a suggestion, and that you do not leave a job for the next crew to find in the dark. He charged a fair hour on the side when a church hall needed more mercy than a catering contract.

He married Teresa Quiroga in 1981. They raised two sons in a house that smelled of chile and coffee. Teresa kept the books for a cousin's shop. Hector grilled in the driveway and considered a Sunday menudo a civic obligation. After he retired he still came out when a neighbor's van would not start, moving slower, swearing with more precision.

Friends remember a man who wiped his hands on a rag that had already done too much, who could sit through a long offering at church without checking a clock, and who hummed while he worked as if the kitchen were a conversation. He loved the desert at evening, a plate of tacos he did not finish, and the particular quiet after a banquet holds. He died in Las Vegas, the city he never wanted explained to strangers. The bay is still working. Someone else will count the next one.

Services

A funeral Mass in Las Vegas. A gift to a hospitality-workers' fund or a parish pantry suits him.

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