



Hortensia Luz Carranza

April 29, 1957 - September 11, 2026

Fresno, California

Hortensia Luz Carranza died in Fresno on September 11, 2026. She was sixty-nine. Born there on April 29, 1957, to parents who had come from Michoacán by way of a long patience, she grew up in a valley that still had raisins at the edges and offices in the middle. She learned that a child's empty tray is not a character problem.

She spent fourteen years in a packing shed off the highway, first sorting, later keeping the night desk for people who arrived late from the fields. Later she sat at a clinic counter and treated a long line as weather you could live with if you kept moving. She translated forms twice: once into English a tired parent could use, and once into the quiet that says you are not in trouble for needing help. She kept extra snacks in a drawer for the child whose morning had already been too long.

She married Ramon Carranza in 1979. They bought a bungalow 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 real-estate talk. After Ramon died in 2022 she kept the garden of peppers 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 buttons labeled in two languages, and who could sit through a graduation without making it about herself. She liked the valley early, before the heat, when the bluffs still looked like a place a person could walk. She died in Fresno, the only city she had ever needed. The extra snacks are still in the drawer.

Services

A memorial in Fresno with tea afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a clinic supply closet or adult English class

is welcome.

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