



Irene Fay Padilla

March 6, 1949 - August 26, 2026

Camden, New Jersey

Irene Fay Padilla died in Camden on August 26, 2026. She was 77. Born in Camden on March 6, 1949, with Mexican-American roots that shaped the table more than the flag. She learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

She sewed seams that held through wash and worry. A pincushion worn to the cloth sat by her machine; piece rates never made her rush a hem. Colleagues still mention a pincushion worn to the cloth.

She married Willie in 1976. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised a son through public schools and ordinary weather. After Willie died in 2019, she kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember a rake leaned against a shared fence after a storm. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Camden, among streets she never needed to explain. The porch still expects a returning step.

Services

A memorial gathering in Camden with coffee afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a local workers' fund, clinic, or neighborhood library is welcome.

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