



Rafael Antonio Molina

July 28, 1958 - September 5, 2026

El Paso, Texas

Rafael Antonio Molina died in El Paso on September 5, 2026. He was sixty-eight. Born there on July 28, 1958, he grew up knowing the river as a weekday neighbor and a warehouse as a clock. He learned a pallet jack before he learned a necktie. A clean aisle, he said, is a kind of promise: it has to hold or the whole story is a trip.

He spent twenty-nine years as a warehouse clerk for a broker that moved other people's paper across a line that never slept. He was the man who could hear a bad forklift before the gauge did, and the man who brought extra coffee for the night shift because he remembered being hungry at nineteen. He did not call himself an importer. He called himself employed, which he treated as a moral category. He would not let a widow be rushed. He would not let a number invent a life.

He married Teresa Molina in 1982. They bought a house in a neighborhood that later became expensive around them. They stayed. Two daughters went through public schools he trusted more than he trusted real-estate talk. After the shop slowed he repaired lawnmowers in the garage and refused to charge a widow what the parts actually cost.

Neighbors remember a quiet man who swept his sidewalk and yours if the wind had been unfair, who kept a coffee can of screws labeled in two languages, and who could sit through a graduation without making it about himself. He liked the Franklin Mountains early, before the heat, when the hills still looked like a place a person could walk. He died in El Paso, the only city he had ever needed. The garage light is off. The work he left in other people's machines is still turning.

Services

A memorial in El Paso with tea and photographs afterward. In lieu of flowers, a gift to a trade program or adult English class is welcome.

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