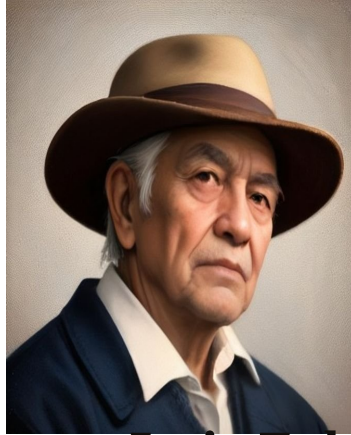




Ramon Luis Zabala

November 25, 1949 - September 3, 2026

Washington, District of Columbia

Ramon Luis Zabala died in Washington on September 3, 2026. He was 76. Born on November 25, 1949, into a Mexican-American household that treated work as a language. He learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

He made change for badges and briefcases with equal courtesy. A drawer balanced by feel meant the day was honest. Colleagues still mention a change drawer balanced by feel.

He married Elena in 1971. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised a son through public schools and ordinary weather. After Elena died in 2019, he kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember covered dishes that arrived without a speech. He liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. He died in Washington, among streets he never needed to explain. The key is still under the same brick.

What remains is not a legend but a practice: showing up, keeping a promise, leaving a place better than you found it. His life was the kind America is built from and too often forgets to name.

Services

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

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