



Raymond Joseph Delgado

October 5, 1954 - July 30, 2026

Pueblo, Colorado

Raymond Joseph Delgado died in Pueblo on July 30, 2026. He was seventy-one. Born there on October 5, 1954, he grew up in the shadow of the mill the way other boys grow up in the shadow of a mountain: it was just the largest thing in town, and it paid. He went inside after high school. Heat, shift work, the particular tiredness of a man who has stood in one place long enough to learn its noises. He stayed until the work thinned, then drove a truck, then found that what he actually knew how to do was stand in a dusty park and teach children not to throw the bat.

For twenty-two summers he coached Little League on fields that needed mowing more than they needed philosophy. He did not shout at umpires. He shouted at kids who were not watching the ball, and then he put a hand on a shoulder and showed them again. He kept a duffel of extra gloves because he remembered being the boy who did not have one. Parents learned that Coach Ray would tell their child the truth and still give him a ride home.

He married Carmen Delgado in 1976. They raised three children in a stucco house with a backyard that was half garden and half infield. Carmen worked at the hospital. Ray grilled on Sundays and considered green chile a food group. After the mill years he never quite sat still: church breakfasts, a cousin's roof, the league's snack stand that he restocked out of his own pocket and then denied.

Players, some of them now with children of their own, remember a man who smelled like grass and soap, who knew when a slump was fear, and who would appear at a high-school game years later as if no time had passed. He loved the Arkansas in late light, a plate of sloppers, and the sound of a clean single. He died in Pueblo, the steel city that had made him and then had to be loved for other reasons. The field still needs mowing. Someone

else will do it, less patiently.

Services

A funeral Mass in Pueblo, then a gathering at the league field if the lights are on. Bring a story, not a speech. A gift to youth baseball or a mill-town food pantry is welcome.

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