



Reynaldo Cruz Ibarra

June 8, 1955 - September 3, 2026

Flagstaff, Arizona

Reynaldo Cruz Ibarra died in Flagstaff on September 3, 2026. He was seventy-one. He was born in Winslow on June 8, 1955, and grew up hearing freight as a clock that did not sleep. His father walked track. Reynaldo learned a spike before he learned a highway south. A rail, he said, is a kind of promise: it holds, or the whole story comes apart in the dark.

For nineteen years he was a section hand on a line that climbed into ponderosa as if the grade were a personal argument. He arrived early. He did not advertise. Foremen called him because he would write up a cracked plate even when the extra was already called. Later he kept the night desk at a motel that served people who arrived late from the desert with a child asleep in the back seat. He kept extra water without making a speech about it.

He married Teresa Ibarra in 1978. They raised a son in a bungalow that needed a new swamp cooler more often than the budget admitted. After Teresa died in 2020 he still came out for a favorite crew, moving slower, swearing with more precision.

Friends remember a man who would sit with a stranger until the aunt arrived from Holbrook, who hated a messy clipboard, and who said you're fine in a way that actually meant the work would get done. He liked the first snow on the peaks, when the town finally looked like the postcard it sold. He died in Flagstaff, in cold he had always preferred to a heavy humidity. The desk is someone else's now.

Services

A rosary and a simple service in Flagstaff. The family welcomes a favorite hymn and a gift to a rail-workers' fund.

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