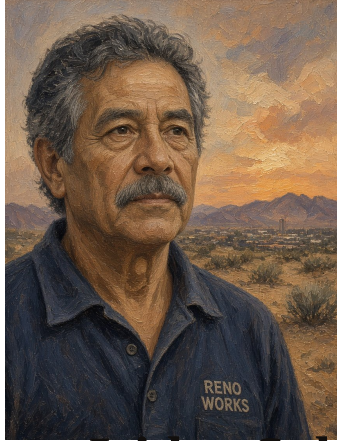




Ruben Isidro Salazar

July 30, 1958 - September 2, 2026

Reno, Nevada

Ruben Isidro Salazar died in Reno on September 2, 2026. He was sixty-eight. Born there on July 30, 1958, he grew up knowing the river as a workday neighbor and the casinos as a weather system. He learned a machine before he learned a campus. A jam, he said, is a kind of sentence: it has to be cleared without making the next one worse.

He spent twenty-two years as a slot technician, then a few more driving a school bus because the hours were kinder and the work was the same: keep people moving and do not put your name on it. He did not romanticize either job. He said a night floor was a country with its own weather. He taught younger techs that a schematic is not a suggestion, and that you do not leave a machine for the next crew to find in the dark.

He married Luz Salazar in 1983. They raised a daughter and a son in a house with a view of the hills and a garden that was half tomatoes and half argument. Luz worked at the clinic. Ruben grilled on Sundays and considered green chile a food group. After the casino 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.

Neighbors remember a man who smelled like solder and soap, who could tell when a slump was fear, and who appeared at a high-school game years later as if no time had passed. He loved the river at evening, a plate he did not finish, and the sound of a clean repair. He died in Reno, the high desert city that had always been enough map. The bus still runs. Someone else will open the door.

Services

A memorial in Reno with photographs and one short song. A gift to a school or a clinic suits him.

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