



Sofia Isabel Villeda

May 18, 1953 - August 11, 2026

Madison, Wisconsin

Sofia Isabel Villeda died in Madison on August 11, 2026. She was 73. Born in Madison on May 18, 1953, into a Central American household that treated work as a language. She learned early that a day is something you finish, not something you wait for.

She fed students who forgot to eat and faculty who forgot manners. A bent soup ladle was her scepter. Colleagues still mention a soup ladle bent from decades.

She married Miguel in 1977. They kept a house that stayed modest when the neighborhood did not. They raised two sons through public schools and ordinary weather. After Miguel died in 2019, she kept the routines that still made sense: the walk, the garden, the Sunday call.

Neighbors remember covered dishes that arrived without a speech. She liked early mornings before the heat or the noise. She died in Madison, among streets she never needed to explain. The porch still expects a returning step.

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

Services

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

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