



Yolanda Iris Castillo

October 2, 1960 - September 7, 2026

Jacksonville, Florida

Yolanda Iris Castillo died in Jacksonville on September 7, 2026. She was sixty-five. Born there on October 2, 1960, she grew up west of the river in a house that smelled of bleach and coffee, and she learned a hospital corridor before she learned a campus. A mop, she said, is a kind of sentence: it has to finish or the next person inherits your unfinished work.

She spent twenty-seven years on the night housekeeping crew at a county hospital, first as a helper, later as the woman who trained new aides that a call light is not an interruption of the floor. She kept extra linens without making a speech about it. When a storm closed the bridges she still came in, because weather is not an excuse to leave a room unready. Later she moved to a day-shift unit aide job and treated a frightened family as work that had to be done gently, not as a performance.

She married Luis Castillo in 1982. They raised a son and a daughter in a bungalow with a mango that dropped fruit on the neighbor's car and an apology that always arrived with a bag of the same fruit. Luis drove a delivery van. Yolanda packed lunches that could survive humidity. After he died in 2019 she kept his chair for a year and then gave it to a grandson who needed a place to do homework.

Neighbors remember a woman who brought tamales to a night shift without staying for thanks, who knew which intern needed a second explanation, and who could hear a floor buffer without looking. She loved a late-summer tomato, a clean map of the linen closet, and the particular quiet after the last bed was made. She died in Jacksonville, in the heat she had always preferred to a clean cold. The corridor is still being walked. Someone else will count the linens.

Services

A gathering in Jacksonville in the evening. A gift to a hospital auxiliary or a night-shift meal fund suits her.

NN-OBIT-2026-C070

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