

= Guillermo Endara =

Guillermo David Endara Galimany (May 12 , 1936 ? September 28 , 2009) was President of Panama from 1989 to 1994 . Raised in a family allied to Panameñista Party founder Arnulfo Arias , Endara attended school in exile in the United States and Argentina following Arias 's removal from power . Endara later received a law degree in Panama . He subsequently served as a member of Panama 's National Assembly , and briefly as a government minister before heading into exile again following Arias ' third overthrow .

After Arias ' death in 1988 , Endara became a leading opponent of the Manuel Noriega military dictatorship , heading the opposition coalition in the 1989 presidential election . Though his coalition was judged by international observers as having defeated pro @-@ Noriega candidate Carlos Duque , the results were annulled by the government , and Endara and his running mates were attacked in the streets by the paramilitary Dignity Battalions . The assaults received widespread coverage in international media , helping to build support within the U.S. for military action against Noriega . Seven months later , the United States invaded Panama , and swore in Endara as the new president on the first night of the invasion on a U.S. military base .

During his presidency , Endara abolished the Panamanian military and replaced it with a national police force . Endara 's term saw steady economic growth and a return of democratic institutions , but also high unemployment rates . His administration was marked by internal fighting and corruption scandals , and his popularity plummeted . He was succeeded by opposition candidate Ernesto Pérez Balladares on September 1 , 1994 .

Endara ran for office again in 2004 and 2009 , but lost to Democratic Revolutionary Party party candidate Martin Torrijos and to independent candidate Ricardo Martinelli . He died of a heart attack on September 28 , 2009 , several months after his last campaign .

= = Early life and career = =

Endara was born in 1936 in Panama City , Panama . His father , Guillermo Endara Paniza , was an ally of Authentic Panameñista Party founder Arnulfo Arias , and the family went into exile after Arias was overthrown in a 1941 coup . Endara went to school in Argentina and to Black @-@ Foxxe Military Institute in Los Angeles in the United States , where he was described as being a " brilliant student " . He later attended the University of Panama Law School , where he graduated first in his class , and New York University .

He returned to Panama in 1963 to practice law , and specialized in labor law . He co @-@ founded the firm of Solis , Endara , Delgado and Guevara , one of Panama 's most successful law firms . He won his first public office in 1964 , but declined to take it due to evidence of voter fraud in the election .

Endara later served two terms in the National Assembly . In 1968 , Endara served as minister of planning and economic policy during Arias 's very brief third term as president . When Arias was overthrown again in October 1968 , Endara went underground , was jailed briefly in 1971 , and joined Arias in exile until 1977 . Endara remained politically engaged and when Arias died in 1988 , Endara became a leading opposition figure .

= = Opposition to Noriega = =

In the presidential election of 1989 , Endara ran as the candidate of the Democratic Alliance of Civic Opposition (ADOC) , a coalition of parties opposed to military ruler Manuel Noriega . His rival was Carlos Duque , a candidate selected by Noriega . The US government contributed \$ 10 million to Panamanian opposition campaigns , though it was unknown whether Endara received any of this money .

To safeguard against planned vote @-@ rigging by Noriega , ADOC organized a count of results from the country 's election precincts before they were sent to the district centers . It showed Endara trouncing Duque by a nearly 3 @-@ to @-@ 1 margin . Noriega 's cronies took phony tally sheets to

the district centers , but by this time the opposition 's count was already out . International observers led by former US President Jimmy Carter and a separate group of observers appointed by US President George H.W. Bush also agreed that Endara had won a decisive victory . Noriega had planned to declare Duque the winner regardless of the actual results , but Duque refused to go along . Regardless , Noriega annulled the results before counting was complete due to " foreign interference . "

The next day , Endara and his running mates , Ricardo Arias Calderón and Guillermo Ford , led a contingent of a thousand supporters to protest the annulment of the elections and urge that the ADOC candidates be recognized as the winners . The protest was attacked by a detachment of Dignity Battalions , a paramilitary group supporting Noriega , and the three candidates were badly beaten . Endara was struck with an iron club , leaving a gash on his head . He was briefly hospitalized and received eight stitches . Images of the attacks on Endara and Ford were carried by media around the world , and were credited with building public support in the US for the invasion that would soon follow .

= = Presidency = =

The US armed forces overthrew Noriega 's government during the US invasion of Panama in December 1989 . Endara had by this time taken refuge in the military bases under US control . American officials told Noriega that if he did not accept the presidency , the only alternative would be an undisguised American occupation . Though Endara had opposed US military action during his campaign , he accepted the presidency , stating later that , " morally , patriotically , civically I had no other choice " . He was certified the winner of the election and inaugurated at Fort Clayton on December 20 , 1989 . Arias was inaugurated as first vice president , and Ford as second vice president . Unlike previous rulers Omar Torrijos and Noriega , Endara appointed only whites to ministerial positions , excluding Panama 's large mestizo population and other ethnicities .

Seen as a restorer of democracy , Endara was later noted for having defended freedom of speech and democratic institutions . He also oversaw a reform of the Panamanian Defense Forces , purging Noriega loyalists , asserting the primacy of the civilian government , and returning the group from military to a national police force . In October 1994 , the National Assembly passed an amendment abolishing the military at Endara 's urging , becoming the second Latin American country to do so .

In early 1991 , the ADOC coalition began to unravel as Endara , Arias , and Ford publicly criticized one another . On April 8 , accusing Arias 's Christian Democratic Party of not rallying to his support during an impeachment vote , Endara dismissed Arias from the cabinet . Arias resigned from the vice presidency on December 17 , 1992 , stating at a news conference that Endara 's government " does not listen to the people , nor does it have the courage to make changes " . Endara responded that Arias 's resignation was " demagoguery " and " merely starting his 1994 political campaign ahead of time " .

Endara 's term in office saw marked economic recovery from the nation 's years of military rule . During his presidency , Panama had an average annual economic growth of 8 % . However , unemployment also rose near 19 % . In February 1990 , the overweight Endara began a hunger strike in the Metropolitan Cathedral to call attention to the nation 's poverty and to pressure US President George H. W. Bush to dispense previously pledged American aid . In the course of the strike , he lost more than thirty of his two hundred and sixty pounds .

By May 1992 , Endara 's public approval rating had fallen from its initial 70 % to only 10 % . The Associated Press later described Endara 's administration as being " tarnished by scandal " . Among other financial scandals , Endara 's wife Ana Mae Diaz was accused of reselling food that had been donated by Italy on the streets of Panama City . In 1992 , Diaz won \$ 125 @,@ 000 in the national lottery and indicated that she intended to keep the money rather than donating it ; the incident was also cited as an example of the Endara 's administration 's lack of concern for Panama 's poor .

= = Later career = =

In 2004 , Endara broke with the Arnulfista party over differences of opinion with the party 's leader , Panamanian president Mireya Moscoso , and accused the party of corruption . He ran in the 2004 presidential election as the candidate of the Solidarity Party , on a platform of reducing crime and government corruption . His primary rival was Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) candidate Martín Torrijos , son of the former military dictator Omar Torrijos . Martín Torrijos ran on a platform of strengthening democracy and negotiating a free trade agreement with the US , and was supported by popular musician and politician Ruben Blades . Endara finished second , receiving 31 % of the vote to Torrijos ' 47 % .

He later founded his own political party , the Moral Vanguard of the Fatherland , and in 2009 was again a candidate for the Panamanian general elections . Ricardo Martinelli of the Democratic Change party won the election with 61 % of the vote , while PRD candidate Balbina Herrera won 37 % . Endara placed a distant third , with 2 % of the vote .

Just a few months later , on September 28 , 2009 , Endara died at the age 73 in his apartment in Panama City , of a heart attack while preparing dinner . He was given a state funeral on September 30 attended by President Martinelli as well as former presidents Perez Balladares , Moscoso , and Torrijos .

= = Personal life = =

Endara married his first wife Marcela , in 1961 ; the couple had one daughter , Marcelita , and three grandchildren , Javier , Marcela Victoria and Jacob . Marcela died of a heart attack in 1989 while Endara was hospitalized from the attack by the Dignity Brigades . He remarried on June 11 , 1990 , at the age of 54 , to Ana Mae Diaz Chen , a 22 @-@ year @-@ old law student of Chinese origin . Endara was reportedly so happy in the marriage that he would even leave cabinet meetings for " a quick cuddle " . The marriage received widespread coverage and mockery in the Panamanian press , including a new nickname for Endara , El Gordo Feliz (" Happy Fatty ") .