



Joe L. Riley

October 17, 1936 - May 7, 2025

Joe Louis Riley, born on October 17, 1936, in Greenville, Alabama, passed away peacefully on May 7, 2025, in Brooklyn, New York, at the age of 88. Joe's life was a tapestry of dedication, music, and love, woven together by his many passions and commitments.

Joe proudly served in the army, demonstrating his unwavering dedication and strength. Following his service, he spent four decades working for the transit system, contributing significantly to the infrastructure that keeps New York moving. His love for music was infectious; he was not only the youngest disc jockey in Birmingham but also a spirited singer who almost had the opportunity to sing with James Brown. Joe's love for singing and dancing brought joy to all who knew him.

Beyond his professional and musical pursuits, Joe had a deep appreciation for nature, especially plants, which he nurtured with care and enthusiasm. His plants were a testament to his love for life and growth.

Joe was predeceased by his beloved wife of 61 years, Harriet Riley. He leaves behind a legacy of love and warmth through his children, Reggie Riley (Kim Riley) and Rachelle Riley-Banks, 9 grandchildren: Taniqua, Rejhina, Jhenelle, Reggie Jr., Joey, Cassidy, Camille, Kire and Chloe, 8 great-grand children

Anthony, Amyaa, Joshua, Kaiden, Mylee, Mello and Madison who will continue to honor his memory with the same passion and dedication he exemplified throughout his life.

Joe will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and all those whose lives he touched.

Cemetery Details

Rosehill Cemetery

792 E. Edgar Road
Linden, NJ 07036
(908) 862-4990

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 16. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Rosehill Cemetery
792 E. Edgar Road
Linden, NJ 07036
(908) 862-4990

Burial

MAY 16. 12:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

RL

“ I loved working with Joe me and him would sing doo wops all the time
He was a very knowledgeable about the job and he would help the new workers that came to Canarsie we would get on the empty train that was going to the yard and take turns singing into the P.A.
Florence by the Paragons on his last day as he was going down the steps to leave we sang Florence one last time my condolences to the family he will be missed by all RIP JOE

Robert LoBianco - May 31, 2025 at 10:50 PM

GW

“ Uncle Joe was definitely one of a kind. He was always positive and full of love. He showed me how to love myself and look forward & beyond. May his loving memories continue to comfort us all. Rest in peace.

Gloria Wheeler - May 16, 2025 at 11:50 AM

MP

“ I will always remember Mr. Riley dancing with Rachele across the dance floor. He smiled and knew exactly how to make the crowd smile with him. May he rest in peace.



Marisol Peña - May 15, 2025 at 08:31 PM