

# In Loving Memory of



*William Riley*

Sunrise  
August 31, 1932

Sunset  
March 12, 2021

**Thursday, March 18, 2021 - 10:30AM**

**Church of St. Joseph of the Holy Family**  
405 W. 125th Street, New York, NY 10027

# Obituary

**William Joseph Riley (Bill Riley)** was born on August 31, 1932 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Pearl Beauchamp and Junius Riley. Bill attended St. Peter Claver Catholic School in New Orleans, where he remained until high school. Not long after high school graduation, Bill moved to New York to be with his father, Junius, to help manage several properties in Harlem.

Not long after, Bill met Alice Boulding, who was a Nursing student at Harlem Hospital and she later became a Registered Nurse. The young pair married in 1955 and together welcomed the births of their three children: Gwendolyn, Dorothy, and William.

Bill was no doubt inspired by his father's entrepreneurship, as well as that of his mother (Mama Pearl) and Uncle Oliver, who were hotel owners in Louisiana. Bill, who acquired a hotel in Harlem in the early 1970s, promptly named it The Royal Orleans Hotel. It was at this Harlem hotel that Bill was able to showcase his business savvy, becoming a founding member of the Harlem Business Alliance, and expanding the hotel and opening a two-level restaurant named Mama Pearl's Creole Restaurant & Catering, an homage to his sweet Mama Pearl.

The restaurant regularly bustled with politicians and the who's who of Harlem socialites, and it was here that Bill showcased his interest in politics and philanthropy. Additionally, Bill employed youth and other local Harlemites in need of employment. Bill regularly sponsored "block parties" on his block in Harlem and donated to various causes, and was a longstanding member of the Knights of Columbus. His faith was such an important part of his life, and he made sure to pass that down to his family, and regularly attended church at St. Joseph of the Holy Family for several decades!

Some of Bill's other interests of course included cooking and eating great food, especially gumbo; reading the newspapers with his eldest child, Gwendolyn; traveling both domestically and abroad, especially father and son trips with William; and visits and food with Dorothy. Bill especially loved spending time with his dear cousin Barbara, and his loving nieces and nephews!

Bill Riley was predeceased by his wife, Alice Boulding, and is survived by their three children: Gwendolyn, Dorothy, and William; life partner and soulmate, Marilyn Blackstone; four grandchildren: Tiffany, Stephanie, William Jr., and Shandanik; four great-grandchildren: Camille, Alyssa, Andrew, and Zailynn; a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, great nieces and nephews; and lifelong childhood friend, Ernest Harding.

# *Funeral Mass*

## **INTRODUCTORY RITES:**

Entrance Hymn

Greeting

Sprinkling with Holy Water Placing of the Pall

Opening Prayer

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD:**

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel

## **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:**

Offertory Hymn

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST:**

Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Communion

Communion Hymn

Meditation Hymn

Closing Prayer

Obituary

## **FINAL COMMENDATION:**

Song of Farewell and Incense

Prayer of Commendation

Recessional Hymn

## **PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL**

## **ENTOMBMENT:**

Woodlawn Mausoleum

Bronx, New York

# *Prayer of St. Joseph by Pope St. Pius X*

Glorious St. Joseph, model of all who are devoted to labor, obtain for me the grace to work in the spirit of penance in expiation of my many sins; to work conscientiously by placing love of duty above my inclinations; to gratefully and joyously deem it an honor to employ and to develop by labor the gifts I have received from God, to work methodically, peacefully and in moderation and patience, without ever shrinking from it through weariness or difficulty to work; above all, with purity of intention and unselfishness, having unceasingly before my eyes death and the account I have to render of time lost, talents unused, good not done, and vain complacency in success, so baneful to the work of God. All for Jesus, all for Mary, all to imitate thee, O patriarch St. Joseph! This shall be my motto for life and eternity.

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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