

## Obituary

Mrs. Carrie Riley Outen was born on July 8, 1937, in Hardeeville, South Carolina. She was the eldest child of the late Robbie “Buster” Riley and Isabelle Ford Riley. She departed this life on Wednesday, December 27, 2023. Carrie was educated in the public schools of Jasper County, SC and graduated from Ridgeland High School, where she was a member of the color guard and a member of the school’s choir. While on the school choir, she sang her first rendition of “Over the Rainbow,” which would become one of her favorite songs, fostering her love of singing throughout the years.

Carrie relocated to Jersey City, New Jersey where she met her late husband Jesse James Outen, while singing on the choir at St. Michael’s Methodist Church. She and Jesse started their family in Newark, NJ. After spending over 20 years there, they moved to Columbia, SC. Carrie became a member of Sweet Home Baptist Church, where she continued to sing and serve on the Usher Board and the Pastor’s Aid Club for over 45 years. Carrie was also a long-time employee of the SC State Fair.

Carrie had a “green thumb” and enjoyed planting and caring for her flowers, having daily devotion, and participating in activities with her friends at the community senior citizens center. She developed a wittiness in her later years and this, coupled with her sweet demeanor, always brought a smile to everyone’s face and warmed the hearts of all. Carrie will be remembered as a loving daughter, wife, mother, grandmother and friend who will be dearly missed.

Carrie was preceded in death by her husband, Jesse James Outen; parents, Robbie and Isabelle Riley; brother, Robbie Riley; and sisters, Deloris Cuyler and Daisy Alexander. Carrie leaves to mourn her passing; sons, Harvey Leon Riley (Diane), of Hardeeville, SC and Jesse C. Outen (Patrice), of Columbia, SC; daughters, Amy O. Hancock (Timothy); Dana M. Outen; and Nicole Outen McCune, all of Columbia, SC; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, many loving relatives and caring friends.

## Memories



## Order of Service

Prelude.....Ms. Jose McDonald  
Processional  
Viewing.....Funeral Directors  
Opening Hymn.....“Blessed Assurance”  
Old and New Testament.....Minister  
Prayer.....Minister  
Solo.....Ms. Nicole Outen McCune  
Remarks  
Selection.....“It Is Well With My Soul”  
Words of Comfort.....Reverend John L. Goodwine  
Solo Tribute.....Ms. Tryphena Taylor  
“Over The Rainbow”  
Recessional.....Ms. Jose McDonald and Choir  
“He’s A Battle Axe”  
Postlude



*Committal, Benediction and Interment*

**2:00 p.m.**  
**Fort Jackson National Cemetery**  
**4170 Percival Road**  
**Columbia, South Carolina**

## *Sweet Momma*

Three years ago, ...

Poppa called out "Carrie, let's go".

You said, "I have to stay with the children a little while longer, Jesse, when God is ready for me, He'll let you know."

Then you felt so sad and alone, although we were near...you asked Chris, one day "why am I still here?" All my loved ones are in Heaven, where I strive to be...singing in the heavenly choir is where I ought to be. Wrapped in Jesus' arms- I want to be free! My work here is done and now it's time to rest, but before I close my eyes, I have one final test.

We know you stayed around for us; this we understand. You beat COVID-19 twice, when you could have gone on to the Promised Land. So, thank you for putting us first and thinking of yourself last. Thank you for loving us and fighting for life before you passed.

We saw your strength, which has also made us strong. We recognize your beauty, and, in our eyes, you could do no wrong. We love you for your sacrifice and for all you did for us. Thank you for your warmth and for the love you gave to us.

We will miss you sweet momma and it is hard to say goodbye. Welcome to your happy place in your Sweet Home beyond the sky. Rest well, sweet momma and with the bluebirds you fly, "somewhere over the rainbow", by and by. You no longer have to sing..."oh why, oh why can't I?"

## *Pallbearers*

Family and Friends

## *Floral Bearers*

Family and Friends

## *Acknowledgement*

We, the family of Mrs. Carrie Riley Outen, would like to thank each of you for your prayers and support during the passing of our loved one. It is our prayer that the Lord blesses each of you in a very special way. A special thank you to the Reid Chapel Community Choir, Ms. Jose McDonald (musician), and her caretakers at NHC.

## *Services Entrusted To:*

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| <b>Taylor Street Chapel</b><br>1831 Taylor Street<br>Columbia, SC 29201<br>(803)771-7799<br>E. S. Leevy Johnson<br>-Owner & Director- | <b>Leevy's</b><br>FUNERAL HOME<br>Chris Leevy Johnson<br>-President & Managing Director- | <b>Lower Richland Chapel</b><br>9120 Garners Ferry Road<br>Hopkins, SC 29061<br>(803) 776-6922<br>Leverette A. Williams, II<br>-General Manager- |
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IN  
LOVING  
*Memory*

*of*  
*Mrs. Carrie Riley Outen*



*Wednesday, January 3, 2024*  
*12:00 Noon*

*Sweet Home Baptist Church*  
*7500 Richard Street*  
*Columbia, South Carolina*

*Reverend John L. Goodwine*  
*- Officiating -*