



Joyce Coley

April 25, 1939 - July 4, 2025

Joyce Coley was born on Tuesday, April 25, 1939, in Harrisburg, PA, daughter of the late Richard Benjamin Braxton and the late Inza-Margaret Taylor.

Joyce was a graduate of Overbrook High in Philadelphia, PA. Very creative, she had a passion for music, quilting and sewing. In the early mid-eighties, she hosted Transitions in Music, her jazz show on WMSP.

She had been living with dementia's wrath, in stark contrast to her stoic persona and dry wit. For the past few years, her altered state of mind left her childlike and unable to communicate. Although I live in Georgia and she resided in Pennsylvania, I last saw her in person on June 9, 2025. I knew then it would most likely be the last time I would brush and plait her hair. It would most likely be the last time I would get to hold her hand, tickle her neck and hug her. It would most likely be the last time she would feel the warmth of my touch and the dampness of my kiss on her neck. But, I also knew it definitely would NOT be the last time she heard my, "I Love You."

Ms. Joyce Coley quietly passed away on Friday, July 4, 2025, at eighty-six years of age taking a long nap of peace she desired and hearing the last "I Love You's" giving her permission to transition into peace. She is in a much better place now--calm, relaxed and finally able to share musical notes with her Daddy, crochet with her Mommy and debate with her Brother. She was

loved and will be missed by many.

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William Forrest Sr., and her brother, Richard B. Braxton Jr.

Very special and loving memories will be cherished by her brother, Barraud I. Braxton of Springfield, MA; sister, Juanona I. Martinez of Philadelphia, PA; sons, W. Forrest Coley Jr. of Atlanta, GA, David Melvin Coley of Centreville, VA, and Neil Warren Coley of Harrisburg, PA; three grandchildren; aunts, Mary M. Braxton, Ann E. Braxton; uncle, Stanley G. Braxton, along with other family members and friends.

“I Love You, Mom,.. It’s OK to go, We’ll be fine down here.”

Submitted by W. Forrest Coley Jr. and Family

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLICK ON THE SHARE A MEMORY TAB TO POST VIDEOS, SHARE MEMORIES, CONDOLENCES, REFLECTIONS OR SIMPLY LEAVE YOUR NAME.

Tribute Wall

WJ

“ 1 file added to the album *Celebration of Life*



W Forrest Coley Jr - August 12, 2025 at 03:13 PM

RP

“ *Robin Perry lit a candle in memory of Joyce Coley*



Robin Perry - August 06, 2025 at 09:05 PM

MB

“ *Marian Blackston lit a candle in memory of Joyce Coley*



Marian Blackston - August 02, 2025 at 07:29 PM

GJ

“ I remember how much I looked forward to Ms. Joyce (as all the neighborhood kids called her), coming onto air with her sultry voice. I tried never to miss any of Ms. Joyce’s jazz radio programming. The jazz artists she selected and aired were always top tier talent. It was calming to hear her voice. It was calming to listen to the music. Off air, Ms. Joyce was another amazing neighborhood mom to all of us kids. She knew I’d be hanging out in her house with my 3 best buddies, Billy, David, and Neal, at any time she came home.

Thank you for all the light you gave to this world.

I love you, Ms. Joyce! ❤️

Gina (White) James

Gina (White) James - July 31, 2025 at 05:28 PM

RS

“ I offer my deepest condolences; I have fond memories of Aunt Joyce (we called her Aunt Joyce) my mother, Donna Logan loved her and visited her often bringing me along, She was always so kind to me: She possessed a joyful kind spirit; Aunt Joyce will be sorely missed . Rest in peace with God 🙏❤️

Rhonda Spaulding - July 30, 2025 at 01:58 PM

LB

“ Such a very nice woman and funny as could be. Take your rest now. 🕊️🌸



LaMarr R. Burns-Hamilton - July 30, 2025 at 01:57 PM



“ *Michael Coley lit a candle in memory of Joyce Coley*



Michael Coley - July 30, 2025 at 12:12 PM

SB

“ *Stellita Baltimore lit a candle in memory of Joyce Coley*



stellita Baltimore - July 27, 2025 at 01:42 PM

BT

“ *The infectious smile and voice of my dear friend Joyce thank you for being such a great friend to my family thank you for my first babysitting job when I was 15 I loved listening to all of your albums and almost wearing all the words off the Marvin Gaye LP thank you 🎵 cherished forever in our hearts 💕
Beverly Bowman Thomas*

Beverly Bowman Thomas - July 19, 2025 at 04:31 PM

JB

“ Oh, my goodness. Joyce was always a bubbly treat when she and her sister visited the Bowman's (after seeing their relatives) and her great Friend Janice Wormsley, on their summer excursions from Philly to Steelton, back in the day. She will be missed without question. May The Almighty God the Father, welcome her into His Kingdon of Eternity. Bless you, my Friend. (p.s. introduce them all to your smooth Jazz). Jesse

Jesse M Bowman - July 19, 2025 at 04:01 PM

DS

“ DAVID SEAY lit a candle in memory of Joyce Coley



DAVID SEAY - July 19, 2025 at 12:36 PM

AH

I met in Steelton pa fell in love with her and her music. You are going to be miss

Albert Hicks - July 19, 2025 at 07:28 PM

SW

so sorry to read of Joyce's passing. I had not seen Joyce for quite sometime but we were acquainted through the sewing group Sewin'SistersSowing. She was so creative and fun to be around. My husband and I listened to her Jazz program many evenings and nights in years past. May our Heavenly Father wrap His loving arms around you and bring you comfort. In Christian love, Sue Waters

sue waters - July 26, 2025 at 09:08 AM

DF

RIP my dear you will be missed especially your sense of humor and beautiful smile.

delores fisher - July 29, 2025 at 11:26 AM