



Israel Sidney Jr.

January 29, 2025

Israel Sidney Jr. departed this life on January 28, 2025, at the age of 83. He was born on January 17 in New Orleans, Louisiana, to the late Rebecca H. Sidney and Israel Sidney Sr., who both preceded him in death. He is survived by his brother, Ralph Gary Sidney (Pamela).

Israel was educated in the New Orleans public school system and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1960. He went on to attend Southern University in New Orleans before transferring to Southern University in Baton Rouge, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. While in school, he worked at Metairie Small Animal Hospital.

After graduation, he began his career at the New Orleans Youth Study Center, working with young people charged with delinquent offenses. It was there that he formed lifelong friendships. His employment with the City of New Orleans continued until the agency transitioned to state control. He served as a probation officer, advancing through the ranks to supervisor and ultimately District Manager for the State Probation and Parole Office. After 20 years of dedicated service, he retired in 1999. In recognition of his contributions, Mayor Marc Morial proclaimed August 13, 1999, as "Israel Sidney Jr. Day" in New Orleans.

In retirement, Israel found joy in working outdoors. He took great pride in his yard, spending countless hours growing plants, flowers, fruit trees, and vegetables—especially his beloved roses. He maintained his yard and cut his grass himself until his passing.

A true music lover, Israel enjoyed listening to all genres, especially jazz. Whether outside working in his yard or relaxing, music was always part of his day. He often said that music lifted his spirit and made him feel good.

In his younger years, Israel was deeply involved in social activism. As a member of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), he participated in sit-ins and demonstrations during the 1960s, fighting for civil rights. He often shared stories of his experiences—some humorous in the way he told them, but always a reminder of the harsh realities of that era. In November 2011, he was honored to ride in the Bayou Classic Parade alongside fellow CORE members in celebration of the organization's 50th anniversary.

Israel leaves behind his devoted wife of 41 years, Joyce H. Sidney; his son, Errol Sidney Sr. (Rhonda), from his first marriage to Louella; and his daughter, Kyra Erica Williams (fiancé Robert). He was a proud grandfather to Errol Sidney Jr. (Leslie), Randon Sidney (Jasmine), and Angel Sidney, and a great-grandfather to five.

Through his marriage, he also gained four honorary grandchildren—Bret Alexander, Taylor Brown, Terry B. Brown, and Kameron Lewis—who adored their “Paw Paw” as much as he loved them. He is also survived by his nieces and nephews: Reagan Sidney, Kanisha Lewis, Kanita Lewis, Shante Collins, Kendalyn Thomas, Melissa Thomas, Ryan Sidney, Andrew Thomas (Xiomara), as well as the late Kendall Lewis.

Israel was a warm, outgoing person who never met a stranger. He had a generous heart, always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. His kindness, wisdom, and laughter will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Memorial Service on Saturday, February 15, at 10:00 AM at Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA. Visitation will begin at 9:00 AM. Arrangements by D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home. Funeral service can be live streamed @ www.facebook.com/D.W.RhodesFuneralHome/live.

Israel Sidney Jr.'s life was one of love, service, and resilience. His legacy will live on in the hearts of his family and all who were fortunate to know him.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

FEB 15. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Rhodes Funeral Home - Washington Avenue
3933 Washington Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125
(504) 822-7162
<https://www.rhodesfuneral.com>

Memorial Service

FEB 15. 10:00 AM (CT)

Rhodes Funeral Home - Washington Avenue
3933 Washington Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125
(504) 822-7162
<https://www.rhodesfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall

AC

“ To Joyce, Errol and Ralph We send sincere condolences. When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure. May you always feel your loved one's presence in your heart and soul. No words can erase what you truly feel, but remember God is always with you. Cherish all of the memories throughout the years. Always Allen and Louella Copeland

Allen E Copeland - February 15, 2025 at 01:00 PM

BM

“ Sending sincere condolences to the Sidney Family. God bless all, especially Joyce. I was the Eucharistic minister to Mrs. Rebecca until her passing. I will always remember his awesome caring spirit!

Barbara May - February 12, 2025 at 03:41 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Israel Sidney Jr..



February 12, 2025 at 01:25 PM