



## Jose J. Guzman

February 5, 1954 - September 8, 2024

Jose J Guzman Jr., age 70, passed away in his room from acute respiratory failure on September 8, 2024, at home. He resided with his son, AJ and daughter-in-law, Pilar, in Tinton Falls NJ. Born February 5, 1954, the only son of Georgina Rivera and Jose Guzman Sr in Newark, New Jersey. He grew up in North Jersey surrounded by friends and family. He was a first-generation Puerto Rican set on making a name for himself. Jose attended Seton Hall University where he studied communications. After university he went on to become one of the top-rated radio DJs in New York while working for 98.7 Kiss FM. Obtaining a number one spot in one of the most competitive radio markets in the world. Best known for his Latin, jazz, and funk styling as well as his classic catch phrase “this is Jose Guzman contigo”. He truly was encapsulated by his chosen sign off music, Killer Joe by Quincy Jones. And as we all know his taste in music was in fact killer. After his career in radio, he went on to work in sales where he won countless awards for his talent and worked his way up to management. Cars were not only a passion for him but a way of life. Jose owned a red 1980 MGB roadster that he loved to cruise around the jersey shore in. Playing music from the 70s and 80s notably Marvin Gaye, Luther Vandross, Teddy Pendergrass and countless others. Jose loved traveling as well. Some of his favorite locales were Puerto Rico and Mexico. There was nothing he enjoyed more than a cold beer on a hot day at the beach in Luquillo or San Juan, interspersed with some Bacardi 151 pina coladas. Jose enjoyed fine dining, great food and great wine, his favorite

restaurant was Mar Belo in Long Branch where he enjoyed pork and clams, lobster and of course the Sangria. He loved and was loved by his family; from myself and my wife, his mother and father, half siblings, cousins, girlfriends, friends and acquaintances. Jose was truly one of the coolest people in the world. He always demonstrated his strength and persistence overcoming difficult odds. He made a good life for himself and his family. A life he can be proud of. It was by no means perfect, but it was filled with love and celebration, joy and pain, but most importantly the people who loved and cared for him. I for one will always remember him as the coolest, strongest man I know. I will cherish the good times we had. The great memories we made. The laughter, the tears, the dancing, the singing and the joie de vivre that made you appreciate the little moments. Jose was truly a great man, someone we can all be proud of, someone we loved to be around. But most importantly, he was my Dad. I will be eternally thankful for the love that he gave me and all he taught me. He truly was one of a kind and will leave a hole in our lives. I'm sure he would want us to look back fondly on him and the memories we made and keep moving forward with him in our hearts. When you hear a great song, drink a good glass of wine or eat a well-cooked meal; think warmly of him and the time we shared and carry his spirit with you. I'll never forget you dad.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday September 21, 2024, at the Bongarzone Funeral home

Tinton Falls, NJ. 2400 Shafto Rd, Tinton Falls, NJ 07712. The family will be accepting cash donations in lieu of flowers to help cover expenses for his service.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

SEP **21**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home  
2400 Shafto Road  
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712  
(732) 918-6200

# Tribute Wall



“ So blown away to see this. Joe and I, although we lost touch in later years, spent so much time together in my early DJ years. When he was on Kiss we spent our nights at all the clubs with all the players. I was his radio engineer at WSOU for his show "Latin Expressions" and I was with him when he got the gig at Kiss and he always included me in the craziness. Oh so many great stories. R.I.P. my friend.

John Nakashian - January 06, 2025 at 12:16 AM



“ Joe taught me how to DJ back at WSOU Seton Hall. We worked the scene together for several years and was with him on his rise to KISS-FM! May God comfort his family.

Glen - December 22, 2024 at 04:27 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jose J. Guzman.



September 21, 2024 at 08:30 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jose J. Guzman.



September 18, 2024 at 07:44 PM

HE

“ I had the pleasure of interviewing Jose for a job as my lease manager about 37 years ago. He was charming, funny and smart so I hired him and that began a "bro-mance". My wife and I became friends with Jose and Andrea and they welcomed AJ around the same time we welcomed our daughter Heather. My memories with Jose are only good ones. I am sad to hear of his sudden passing. He was a people pleaser, a jokester and genuinely a good hearted man. Heaven will embrace him with open arms and he will be missed.



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**Hank Eisenhauer** - September 13, 2024 at 09:04 PM

MO

“ My partner Corey and myself had the honour of meeting Jose in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in May of 2023. Such a genuine man and we were sooooo looking forward to meeting up again one day soon. Rest in peace our brother 🙏❤️. Luv Corey & Mike - Hamilton, Ont Canada.

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**Mike Owen** - September 13, 2024 at 06:48 PM

PL

“ So sorry to hear of the loss of Joe Guzman, my first love and husband. I will always remember the difficult road he traveled to succeed as a radio announcer and disc jockey. He was a good man with great ambition and a zest for life. Joe and I enjoyed our college years and fun times in New York with the Kowalskis. We loved to go out dancing and then a late night trip to Umbertos in Little Italy. Such good memories and love we shared with our families and friends. He will be missed so much by all who knew him. My condolences to his mother Georgina and son Anthony and wife. You all are in my prayers.



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**Pat Lucia** - September 11, 2024 at 11:56 PM

KT

“ I am completely saddened to hear of Jose's passing. He was such a great man. We worked together for many, many years at Pine Belt and he would often come and visit me at my new job from time to time. Sending my condolences to the entire family.



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**Kim Thomas** - September 11, 2024 at 10:45 PM

LR

Jose was a great man. He was always willing to help me learn the computer on how to sell cars. In the years we worked together we became good friends and had many laughs and great times. My husband also was fond of Jose, and remembered him on the radio growing up. We are very saddened by how passing. I will never forget him. I know he's with our friend John Delgaudio up in heaven laughing and joking around. I will surely miss him. Rest in peace Jose.

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**Lisa Richichi** - September 12, 2024 at 12:00 AM



*So blown away to see this. Joe and I, although we lost touch in later years, spent so much time together in my early DJ years. When he was on Kiss we spent our nights at all the clubs with all the players. I was with him when he got the gig at Kiss and he always included me in the craziness. R.I.P. my friend.*

John Nakashian - December 22, 2024 at 11:02 AM

JO

“ *My heart is filled with sadness and tears, but my memories are filled with smiles of the good times we shared.  
Rest in peace my dear friend Jose. You will always hold a special place in my heart.*

❤️ Joanne

Joanne Ostendorf - September 11, 2024 at 09:53 PM

TF

“ *So sorry to hear about your Dad's passing. My Husband Dennis and I knew your Dad when he was in college. He was our best man at our wedding and Dennis was his best man. Lots of love to your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
Dennis and Susan Kowalski*

The Kowalski Family - September 11, 2024 at 09:32 PM

BH

“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Jose J. Guzman*



Bongarzone Funeral Home - September 10, 2024 at 08:50 PM