



Steven Rivera

December 6, 1961 - May 21, 2026

Steven Rivera, 64, of Little Egg Harbor, passed away on May 21, 2026 at Southern Ocean Medical Center. He was born in Brooklyn, NY to his loving parents, Modesto and Myriam Gonzalez Rivera.

Steven proudly served in the United States Air Force for 20 years, retiring with the rank of Master Sergeant. During his military career, he served during the Gulf War era and was awarded numerous medals for his dedication and service. He also worked at East Orange High School as a Jr. ROTC instructor for many years.

Steven truly knew how to enjoy life and bring joy to those around him. A lover of music, Steven had a passion for DJing and could often be found filling a room with laughter, dancing and unforgettable memories.

He also loved spending time in Atlantic City where the casino brought happiness and fun over the years.

Steven is survived by his loving children, Rita N. Rivera and her husband Thomas and Steven M. Rivera, his cherished grandchildren, Tommi-Faye, Stevie-Skye and Mia Franki, his devoted friend, Martin Capozzi and his dear siblings, Janet and her husband Mike and Ivelisse. Also surviving are many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A visitation will be held at the Bongarzone Funeral Home on Monday June 1, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. with a service to begin at 10:30 a.m. Interment will follow at Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veteran Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent in Steven's memory to the Air and Space Forces Aid Society, <https://afas.org/donate/>.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

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

Funeral Service

JUN 1. 10:30 AM (ET)

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

Burial Service

JUN 1. 12:30 PM (ET)

Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery
350 Province Line Rd
Wrightstown, NJ 08562-2206
(609) 738-2400

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Steven Rivera.

June 02 at 10:29 AM



“ I met Steve about twenty five years ago. I will always fondly remember his love of music, and so many of us asking him to turn it down. We went to concerts and festivals together, weddings and baby showers and countless dinners and incredible days spent on the beach together. Steve was an amazing cook. I think he was one of those people that you could give three ingredients and he could make a gourmet meal for you. I knew very well that Steve loved me. He said it every time we were together, but that was not necessary, he constantly showed the love to me and all the others around him. Life will go on but there will always be a void and that place will always be held for Steve. Love always❤️

Jackie Barendregt - June 01 at 01:56 PM



“ Love Diana planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Rivera.

Love Diana - June 01 at 09:03 AM



“ Love Diana purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Steven Rivera.



Love Diana - June 01 at 09:03 AM

JC

“ Jackie Rossi & Marie Capozzi planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Rivera.

Jackie Rossi & Marie Capozzi - May 30 at 10:19 AM

JC

“ Jackie Rossi & Marie Capozzi purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Steven Rivera.



Jackie Rossi & Marie Capozzi - May 30 at 10:19 AM



“ I knew Steven as MSgt Rivera. He was my JROTC instructor during my junior year of high school in 2016. Having a similar background, I always looked up to him as a mentor and role model. I'm grateful for the memories and wisdom he shared with me, and his influence played a part in my decision to join the USAF. The impact he had on others will continue far beyond today, and I know his memory will live on through the many lives he helped shape. Sending love and prayers to his family and loved ones.

– Cadet Nieves

Nelson Nieves Jr. - May 27 at 12:27 PM

J(

“ Deeply saddened to hear of Steve’s passing. I was proud to serve alongside him as an Aerospace Science Instructor at East Orange Campus High School. Steve brought so much energy and joy to our community, DJ’ing many of our military balls and school events, creating memories that will never be forgotten. My sincere condolences to Steve Jr., Rita, and the entire family during this difficult time. He will be greatly missed.

Jacqueline Ocasio, TSgt., USAF (Ret.) - May 27 at 09:04 AM

VM

“ V M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Rivera.

V M. - May 26 at 01:38 PM

MC

“ Deepest condolences to the Rivera Family. I worked with Steve at East Orange Campus High School for many years. He was a fine educator and was our ROTC coordinator. We worked closely on the testing team and Steve always showed professionalism in all that he did. He was a great role model and inspiration to our program and our school. His students looked up to him and he was a great leader for this group of students. We spent countless hours talking about music, Atlantic City and his children. We had a great bond and respect for each other. I will miss him and know he is with God at peace. Always remembered and always respected. 🇺🇸 🙏 🙏 💙 💙
With sympathy, Michele Carbone EOCHS retired Test Coordinator and friend



michele Carbone - May 23 at 03:53 PM

AU

“ Tío, I love you so much. May you rest in peace, thank you for all the great childhood memories the camping trips not to mention the way you always had music playing for us all turning any occasion into a party. Thank you for your wonderful service. You will be truly missed
Love always,
Your niece Ashley.



Ashley Unseth - May 23 at 02:08 PM

BH

“ Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Steven Rivera



Bongarzone Funeral Home - May 22 at 10:14 PM

RR

Godspeed Steven and RIP. I will always remember you as a wonderful ROTC instructor and your care for your students. At our department meetings your contributions were always respected. My deepest sympathies to family and friends.
Rosario Romero-Rey
Retired Academies Dept. Chairperson

Rosario Romero-Rey - May 23 at 11:16 AM