



Joseph H. Giries Sr.

December 1, 1922 - November 1, 2017

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust" Psalm 91:1-2. Joseph H. Giries, loving husband and father, entered the Kingdom of Heaven on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 surrounded by loved ones. Joseph lived 94 full years and is now peacefully back in the arms of his beloved parents, Hanna Giries and Marguerite Rock Giries, his Aunt Maria Giries, his brother George Giries, his sister Georgette Giries and all those friends and family who have passed before him.

Born in the village of Ein Karem, just outside Jerusalem, Palestine, on December 1, 1922, Joseph was the second of eight children. He is survived by his wife, Emily Palacios Giries, daughter Juliet Giries Brandon and husband Stephen, sons, Joseph Hanna Giries, Jr. and John Michael Giries, brothers, David Giries and wife Leila (Los Angeles), Elias Giries, Sr. and wife Ruth (Houston) and sisters, Evelyn Giries Sirrieh (Houston), Elizabeth Giries Misri (Houston), Lily Giries Farris and husband, Eddie (Los Angeles) and 22 nieces and nephews.

Joseph adored his upbringing in the birthplace of St. John the Baptist and often shared stories of his experiences living in the Holy Land. Educated by the Franciscan Fathers, he loved helping them make their wine as much as he enjoyed playing soccer. A standout as the tallest kid in the village, he ran

everywhere he went, never just walked. He and his siblings spent many hours working on their vineyards and orchard trees with their Aunt Maria. Joseph learned photography from his cousin Yusef Shamieh and would go on to work for Matson Photo Service as an Apprentice. Today dozens of the historical images he took depicting Palestine (present day Israel and the West Bank) through 1946 are part of the Matson (G. Eric and Edith) Photograph Collection in The Library of Congress.

During the 1948 conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, he and his family were displaced and lost their land. Joseph planned to move to London, the birthplace of his mother, but his father advised him to go to America to live with his uncle in Houston. His favorite cousin, Madeleine Talamas of New York became his sponsor when he emigrated in 1950. As a student sharing an apartment with 4 other students, Joseph shared his creativity and passion for cooking all the wonderful Middle Eastern dishes he learned from his mother. Upon graduating from University of Houston he went to work for Gene Farren who owned Photocolor of Houston, Inc. Eventually he became partners in the company and in 1970, he and his wife Emily bought Gene's share of the business when he retired. During this same time he opened a restaurant with his brothers called The Arabian Nights, the first Arabic restaurant in Houston.

Joseph had an extraordinarily generous nature, always eager to assist anywhere he could. He sent money home to those who needed it, sponsored many to emigrate to America, purchased a home for his parents and his sons.

Once he retired, Joseph spent a lot of time in his Colorado home doing those things that he loved, photographing landscapes and cooking for family and friends.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, November 7th, 2017 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm with a Vigil beginning at 7:00pm at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094

Memorial Drive, Houston TX 77079. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at 10:30am at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, 11720 Joan of Arc Drive, Houston TX 77024, with a reception following immediately in the Community Center.

The family expresses its deepest gratitude to Drs. Jasmin Baleva, Cora Mihu, Matthew Spinn and Anil Thaker. Memorial donations can be made to St. Cecilia Catholic Church or the Religious of the Sacred Heart at Duchesne Academy.

Cemetery Details

Forest Park Westheimer Cemetery

12800 Westheimer Road
Houston, TX 77077

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Vigil/Rosary

NOV 7. 7:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Funeral Mass

NOV 8. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Cecilia Catholic Church
11720 Joan Of Arc Drive
Houston, TX 77024

Reception

NOV 8. 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Cecilia Catholic Church
11740 Joan Of Arc Drive
Houston, TX 77024

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph H. Giries Sr.*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Joseph H. Giries Sr.*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Joseph H. Giries Sr.*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *Joseph H. Giries Sr.*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM

TP

“ I found Joseph's obituary today on-line and offer my sincere condolences to all those who knew and loved him.

I am a researcher and writer who lived in Jerusalem for several years (including Ein Karem) and have done much work on the American Colony Photographers and the Matson Collection of Holy Land images. I was doing a search on Joseph's name, as a known employee of the Matson Photo Service in the early 1940s, when I saw the notice of his death.

My first thought was: what a treasure trove of information and memories the man must have been -- there are so few remaining links to that time and place!

For one thing, I was wondering if there are <i>specific</i> photographs belonging to the Matson Collection that Joseph is known to have taken. If so, the Library of Congress might be willing to add that attribution to the relevant image records. Any written memoir, oral history, etc. relating to that time period could be of interest as well.

Pardon my using this channel to communicate, but it's what was available.

Again, my deepest sympathy on Joseph's passing.

Peace & Blessings...

*TOM POWERS / Waynesville, NC
tapow@hotmail.com*

Tom Powers - February 07, 2018 at 01:44 AM

AS

“ Our sincere deepest sympathy to the Giries family for their loss, Joseph will be remembered in our prayers.
Alex Safieh and family.

Alex Safieh - November 07, 2017 at 07:49 PM

DF

“ Dr. Adel Jabour and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joseph H. Giries Sr..



Dr. Adel Jabour and family - November 07, 2017 at 06:59 PM



“ 25 files added to the album Life Tributes



Detting Funeral Home - November 07, 2017 at 03:12 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph H. Giries Sr..*



November 07, 2017 at 10:59 AM



“ *Nader Misri & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Joseph H. Giries Sr..*



Nader Misri & Family - November 07, 2017 at 01:01 AM



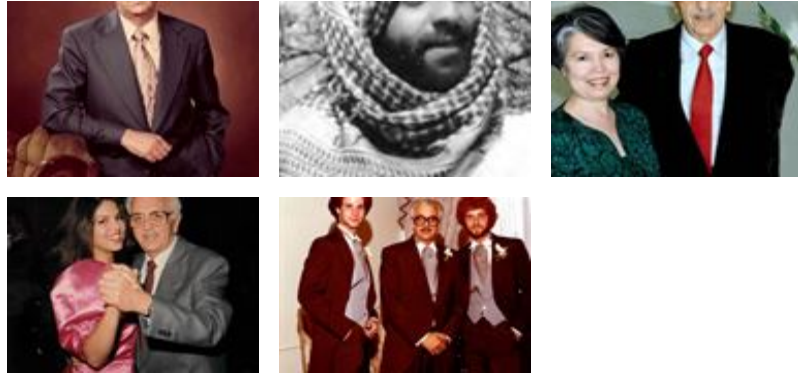
“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Joseph H. Giries Sr..*



November 06, 2017 at 03:34 PM



“ 75 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dettling Funeral Home - November 06, 2017 at 03:04 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Joseph H. Giries Sr..*



November 05, 2017 at 11:09 PM



“ *John Stephen and Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Joseph H. Giries Sr..*



John Stephen and Family - November 05, 2017 at 08:56 PM

JP

“ *Jilma Palacios purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Our Family Chain Is Broken" for the family of Joseph H. Giries Sr..*



Jilma Palacios - November 05, 2017 at 11:28 AM