



Jerry Ivan Allison

August 31, 1939 - August 22, 2022

J.I. Allison passed away August 22, 2022 at his home in Lyles with his wife, Joanie, by his side.

J.I. was born August 31, 1939 in Hill County, Texas. He was raised in Lubbock, Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents, J.D. "Buddy" Allison, Louise (Ferguson) Allison and his brother, James D. Allison.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Joanie, as well as numerous friends, and fans.

J.I. was a Rock and Roll pioneer. While still a teenager in the mid-1950s, along with Buddy Holly, he formed The Crickets and with his compositions, "That'll be the Day," "Peggy Sue" and "Not Fade Away". The group became one of the most successful of the late 1950s. After Holly's death in 1959, the group continued its success with J.I.'s composition of "More Than I Can Say" and other recordings such as "I Fought the Law." The Crickets were a viable entity until their retirement in 2012.

J.I. was a highly innovative and influential drummer remembered for his unique drumming on "Peggy Sue" and "Not Fade Away". He recorded and performed with some of the biggest stars of the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s: The Everly Bros., Bobby Vee, Johnny Rivers, Roger Miller, Waylon Jennings, Glen

Campbell, Paul McCartney and others. He was a member of the Nashville Walk of Fame, the Nashville Musicians Hall of Fame, the Rock and Roll Walk of fame, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

J.I. and Joanie own a farm and he loved farming and animals. He loved life and enjoyed it to the fullest. He will be exceedingly missed by many.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

FE

“ *felix lit a candle in memory of Jerry Allison*



felix - September 25, 2025 at 03:15 PM

TM

“ *Where to begin?? A TRUE legend has left the building, and the rest of us are lesser because of it. His musical legacy will live FOREVER as long as fans like me listen....*

Todd M - December 16, 2022 at 06:25 AM

JB

“ *One more thing ... comiserations to Stroh's Beer, whose sales will have fallen dramatically now J.I. is no longer supporting them ... and to other local providers ... and friends who would drop by for a beer or few in the Bucket Lounge.
Things will never be the same :(*

John B - September 01, 2022 at 11:56 AM

JB

“ When a friend introduced me to “That’ll Be The Day” by The Crickets in late 1957, my life changed forever. Over the years J.I. was generous with his contributions to my Crickets Fan Club and as a co-director of Rollercoaster Records. So many great times ... As others have said, he inspired and entertained us all ... a lovely person.

J.I. - Miss you, Love you more than I can say...

Joanie – Love and hugs...

John Beecher - August 31, 2022 at 07:53 PM

JK

I have many great memories of Jerry(J.I.) We enjoyed a lot of fun times- On Labor Day 1955 Jerry, myself and 3 others turned over in a convertible—No one hurt -Jerry did get a scratch on his hand reaching back in to find his cigarettes after it was all over- I have often thought of how Rock and Roll history would have been different if that car had landed a little different!

Jack Britton Kyle - September 03, 2022 at 08:20 AM

GB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Geoff Barker - August 30, 2022 at 07:18 AM

GB

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Geoff Barker - August 30, 2022 at 07:16 AM

IH

“ Being a lifelong fan of The Crickets, I consider myself lucky to have met JI (and Joannie) on a few occasions, both here in the UK and in the US, mainly at Clear Lake. I always found him totally friendly and amiable. He never shied away from signing a few pieces for me which will always be treasured. A great man, a great drummer, a great husband to Joannie. My sympathies go out to her, her family and friends, and all fans of The Crickets. RIP JI you will be greatly missed!

Ian Higham - August 30, 2022 at 06:12 AM

BG

“ Brenda Gordon lit a candle in memory of Jerry Ivan Allison



Brenda Gordon - August 30, 2022 at 12:21 AM

JC

“ I met Jerry, Sonny, and Joe B. in Lubbock. We met at a luncheon and one would have thought by our conversation that we were long-lost buddies. Above all, Jerry was REAL PEOPLE. Here's that day, I'll never forget.



Joe Christiano - August 29, 2022 at 05:52 PM



“ I was pleased and honored to have seen Jerry I. perform with the other Crickets in my town and to have met with them after the show.



Terry Courtnadge - August 29, 2022 at 08:46 AM

RG

“ Ronald Gammons lit a candle in memory of Jerry Ivan Allison



Ronald Gammons - August 29, 2022 at 06:20 AM

JD

“ So many happy memories of seeing & meeting the Crickets at their shows here in the UK & in the US. One very special memory of an evening spent at JJ's & Joanie's with Sonny, my wife Clare & friend Joyce, truly a memory that, like the music, will stay with us forever. Our thoughts are with the family.
John & Clare

John Davis - August 29, 2022 at 04:42 AM

 Patrick
O'Neill

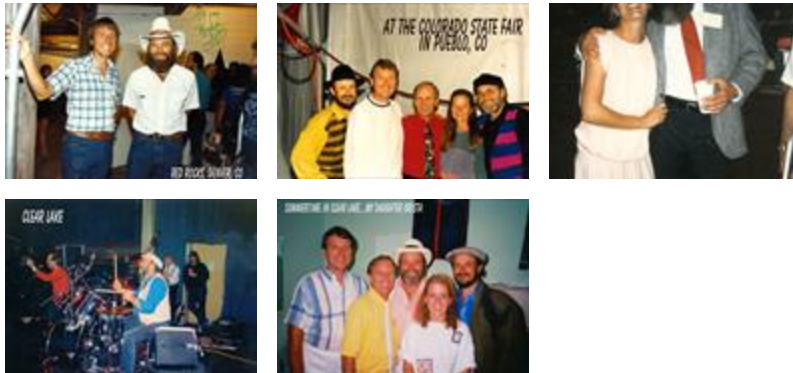
“ *Patrick O'Neill lit a candle in memory of Jerry Ivan Allison*



Patrick O'Neill - August 29, 2022 at 03:13 AM

DL

“ Where does one start to tell about the friendship I had with JI for 44 years. There are so many things to say about him, I could right a book about it. We first met at the world premier of the Buddy Holly movie in Dallas in May of 1978. After that we were at many places together and we had great times when we were together. JI was a star but you would never know that. He was so down to earth and he always had the time for others along the way. We would joke and laugh together, and he would listen to my stories, just as I listened to his. You knew what you were getting when you got to know him. He was the real deal in everyway.
My sympathies go out to Joanie and my thoughts and prayers are with you.
JI did it all with a great beat and he never missed one. RIP JI, you were a great person and a great friend. I will miss you More Than I Can Say!!!!



Don Larson - August 28, 2022 at 04:19 PM

RB

Jerry, you were a fine musician and a fine Christian man. It was a pleasure to meet you and the Crickets in July 1982. I know that in Heaven you are having a great time with Buddy, Elvis, Bobby Fuller, John Lennon, Eddie Cochran, Gene Vincent, and many other muman

Randall K. Banks - August 30, 2022 at 04:55 PM

RC

“ I was just looking up Jerry's address to send him a Birthday card a few days from now, when I found an obituary instead. Damn, This Hurts. I never met JI, but his effect on music has been an overwhelming joy on my life! Such a Cool dude. The Crickets are together again.
Rey Criollo

rey criollo - August 27, 2022 at 04:59 PM

RK

“ Ricky King lit a candle in memory of Jerry
Ivan Allison



Ricky King - August 27, 2022 at 01:44 PM

RT

“ great talent and a great man you will be missed

randy toy - August 27, 2022 at 12:28 PM

PH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Paul Hurrell - August 27, 2022 at 10:08 AM

PH

“ I have been a life-long UK fan of The Crickets and have had the pleasure of meeting J.I a few times. He was so generous with his time, and a funny guy too with lots of interesting stories.

We all miss you sir. R.I.P. ❤️

Love and hugs to all the family.

Paul Hurrell - August 27, 2022 at 10:05 AM

JS

“ We wish to send our condolences to Joanie. We have fond memories of Jerry in Australia in 1987 and 1989. It was very special to see them perform and to see Jerry's personality so evident when he was playing the drums. In 1987 J.I.; Joanie; Joe B. and Gordon met with many fans at a barbeque at our house. Over 90 people travelled from other states to meet them even though it was a Tuesday afternoon. Nigel enjoyed his visit to the Allison's farm in Tennessee in 1996 where he loved reminiscing and looking at some of J.I's memorabilia. The City of Lubbock has done a wonderful job honoring J.I's contribution to music by restoring his teenage family home and allowing visitors to walk though it in Lubbock (relocated next to the Buddy Holly Center). J.I. visited Australia five times between 1958 and 1989. Nigel and Jill Smith

Jill Smith - August 27, 2022 at 08:04 AM

GB

“ As a kid in London in 1960, learning to play guitar to Crickets records, it was such an amazing privilege to years later, really get to know J.I, do interviews with him and make radio programmes about him and Buddy. Also to spend time with him and Joannie at their home and watch J.I. and the rest of the band making an album in his studio in 1995. A rare privilege indeed. He was always so kind and generous with his time and memories. I have lots of my own, from the many Crickets UK tours. A lovely sweet guy...who also happened to be a rock n roll legend too. Our sincerest condolences to Joannie and all their family. R.i.p. J.I...it was SO great knowing you. Thank you for everything. Geoff & Ann

Geoff Barker - August 27, 2022 at 07:33 AM

DI

“ Hasta siempre mister Allison!



Diego - August 26, 2022 at 03:36 PM

MA

“ My condolences to his family, friends and all his fans.

Mike Anton - August 26, 2022 at 02:31 PM

BR

“ I have met J.I. many times in Lubbock and Clear Lake...he was always such a nice person, easy to talk to, had photos with him and watch him and the Crickets from backstage performing. My heart goes out to his wife Joanie, such a beautiful lady inside and out. RIP. Barbara Rau, Hawthorne, NJ

Barbara Rau - August 26, 2022 at 01:48 PM

BG

“ *JI had a rich and adventurous life, and we were so fortunate to know him through the music and the Buddy Holly Center. Such a West Texan, such an incredible story teller, and such a generous person. Twenty three years ago Joanie and JI invited us (Connie Gibbons and I) into their home and Jerry shared so many stories and belongings from his incredible life. It was fantastic. Thank you for that experience and memory.*

Love, grace, and strength to Joanie, Sonny, Glen, and JI's extended family, friends, and fellow musicians who loved him and grieve his passing. With much love and respect, Bob Goodwin

Bob Goodwin - August 24, 2022 at 10:22 PM

JO

“ *Our Sympathy to the Allison Family, Chug and Johnnie Ruth Elrod*



Johnnie - August 24, 2022 at 09:08 PM

WS

“ *When I moved to Tennessee JI and Joanie welcomed us into their family. Such wonderful people. Joanie my heart is with you ❤️❤️ Sending my love and prayers. JI will be missed.*



wendy smith - August 24, 2022 at 07:24 PM

JL

A most gifted songwriter and a brilliant drummer. From Jim Liddane and all at International Songwriters Association

Jim Liddane - August 26, 2022 at 03:31 PM



“ Neil and I were honored several years back when JI and Joanie came to our house to meet our friends from Northern Ireland. Edwin was a huge fan of The Crickets and JI. When he discovered that they lived near us, he really wanted to meet him. Ironically, we heard of the passing of JI via a text from Northern Ireland! May God comfort you, Joanie, with memories of your y many happy years together.

Bea Jobe - August 24, 2022 at 05:13 PM

DG

“ Donna Pendergrass And Girls lit a candle in memory of Jerry Ivan Allison



Donna Pendergrass and girls - August 24, 2022 at 03:57 PM

JR

“ Joyce Robbins lit a candle in memory of Jerry Ivan Allison



Joyce Robbins - August 24, 2022 at 02:11 PM

PH

“ *Paula Hay lit a candle in memory of Jerry Ivan Allison*



Paula Hay - August 24, 2022 at 01:41 PM

LG

“ *Lonnie & Marilyn Gilliam lit a candle in memory of Jerry Ivan Allison*



Lonnie & Marilyn Gilliam - August 24, 2022 at 01:28 PM

JR

“ *Dear sweet Joanie, I'm so very sorry for your devastating loss! You and JI have been so close to my heart for almost 40 years and I have been blessed to call you both my friends. You have been such a rock for JI and you've both been through a lot. Sending you love.*



Joyce Robbins - August 24, 2022 at 09:45 AM

VB

“ *Vicky Beagle sent a virtual gift in memory of Jerry Ivan Allison*



Vicky Beagle - August 24, 2022 at 09:39 AM

SS

“ Prayers and hugs especially for you Joanie as you deal with the sadness and loss of your husband. Hold all the memories close to your heart this way JI will never be far from you.



Respectfully,
Suzanne Swan, Leoma TN

Suzanne Swan - August 24, 2022 at 01:29 AM

DB

“ Our family loves JI and Joanie. Our hearts are broken. So blessed to have both of them in our lives as neighbors and friends and our memories will last forever. Sending lots of prayers love and hugs for sweet Joanie ❤️

Doris Beasley - August 23, 2022 at 09:56 PM

DW

“ J I was a really down to earth man that if you didn't know he was the reason Rock & Roll is still going to this day and that he was ranked one of the best drummers ever by Rolling Stone Magazine, he would just seem like your friendly neighbor and would wave when you drove by his farm. One of the nicest guys I have ever met and I'm proud that I knew him. Fly high J I Allison, you've earned your wings!❤️

Damon Wherry - August 23, 2022 at 09:49 PM

TU

“ I meant lost an icon.

Terrie Utley - August 23, 2022 at 08:23 PM

TU

“ I remember JI/Joanie as great neighbors and friends. East Hickman County has definitely closet an icon.

Terrie Utley - August 23, 2022 at 08:22 PM

LF

“ Joanie, Henry and I are saddened to hear of J.I.'s passing. Henry said tonight that he enjoyed seeing you two at Donna's. May you find comfort in the memories of a life well lived.

Linda J Frazier - August 23, 2022 at 07:58 PM

KJ

“ Kenny And Heather Jennette sent a virtual gift in memory of Jerry Ivan Allison



Kenny and Heather Jennette - August 23, 2022 at 06:28 PM