

In Loving Memory
of

William R. Lewis

November 9, 1932 - February 18, 2017



Saturday, February 25, 2017- 12:00 Noon

St. Matthew A.M.E. Church

336 Oakwood Avenue

Orange, New Jersey

Reverend Dr. Lanell D. Guyton, Pastor

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Officiating

Obituary

Hon. William R. Lewis, a resident of Orange, New Jersey for over 50 years, passed away Saturday, February 18, 2017 at Beth Israel Hospital in Newark, New Jersey.

William ('Bill') was born November 9, 1932 in Newark, New Jersey to Russell Lewis and Edith Schenck. He enlisted in the US Air Force during the Korean War and served from 1952 to 1956 achieving the rank of Sergeant as a flight crew chief after completing advanced electronics school with honors. Afterwards, Bill worked at Dumont Labs as a technician while he attended Newark College of Engineering (now NJIT) where he received his Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1963.

Following graduation, Bill secured employment with Western Electric (now AT&T) in Newark where he enjoyed an illustrious career until his early retirement in 1988. During his tenure at Western Electric, he was asked to leave the engineering team where he was a team leader to head up their newly formed EEO department in New York. He later returned to Newark as a department chief for engineering planning and finally financial management and project management for network services before retiring.

Throughout his time at Western Electric/AT&T, Bill was active in the community in both Newark and Orange, having relocated from Newark to Orange with his wife, Dr. Evelyn G. Lewis, and daughter, Michele D. Lewis-Monteilh in 1965. His son, Rodney S. Lewis was born at Orange Memorial Hospital in 1967. Bill's activities and achievements include: First Black President of the Newark Jaycees where he was awarded Speaker of the Year, Sparkplug of the Year and Jaycee of the Year, United Way ambassador, loaned executive and trustee, charter member of EDGES, President of the Heywood Ave. School PTA and the Orange Middle School PTA, executive committee member of the Marylawn Parents' Association, Director of the Seton Hall Prep Fathers' Club, President of the Valley Settlement House trustees, Chairman of the South Ward Democratic Committee of Orange, Chairman of the Educational Advisory Committee of Orange, President of the Heywood Area Neighborhood Association, Trustee of the Orange Public Library, charter member of the Friends of Orange Park, President of the Society for the Advancement of Minorities in Engineering, Chairman of NJIT's pre-college board where he also self-funds a scholarship for local minorities pursuing engineering.

Bill also served as the Orange South Ward Councilman for 16 years, making him the longest serving member of the Orange City Council at that time. Bill served from July 1, 1990 until he stepped down June 30, 2006 to care for his wife, Evelyn. Even after Bill stepped down from serving on the Orange City Council he still continued to attend council meetings on a regular basis, as well as Board of Education meetings. He has his fingerprints on many things all over Orange including the current Orange High School when it was originally constructed. This is just a fraction of Bill's past community involvement and he was also a patron of the arts and public television.

William 'Bill' Lewis was preceded in death by his loving wife, Dr. Evelyn G. Lewis (2010) and is survived by: his daughter, Michele Lewis-Monteilh and her husband, Richard; his son, Rodney S. Lewis and his wife Aaliya; three grandchildren, Kyle and Katherine Monteilh and Airman Brendan T. Lewis; two sisters, Mary Pugh and Edith Lewis; and a host of nieces, nephews, 'adopted' as well 'blood' family members and friends.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Seating of the Family

Hymn of Comfort.....“Blessed Assurance”

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Readings

Old Testament: A reading from the Book of Wisdom (3:1-6.9).....Michele Lewis-Monteilh

New Testament: 1 Peter 3:10-17 Katherine Monteilh

Solo.....“Never Would Have Made It”

Remarks *(2 minutes please)*

City of Orange - Councilwoman, Donna K. Williams

Friends - Edwin Shell & George Campbell

Family - Rodney S. Lewis

Acknowledgements and Resolutions

Obituary *(In Silence)*

Solo“What A Wonderful World”

EulogyBishop Reginald T. Jackson

Military Honors Ceremony

Recessional Clergy & Family



I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day.
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it up with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times,
a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free!*

-author unknown

Acknowledgement

**The family of William R. Lewis thanks all of you
for your many expressions of love, sympathy,
and prayers so graciously extended. Thank You
and May God Continue to Wonderfully Bless All**

Professional Services Provided By

Woody "Home For Services"

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