

Dr. Billie Lewis

October 24, 1929 - April 13, 2016

LEWIS, Dr. Billie - Age 86, passed away Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at Hurley Medical Center. Family hour 10:00 a.m. under the auspices of Sigma Pi Phi and Kappa Alpha Psi., Thursday, April 21, 2016, at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 424 Kennelworth Ave. Flint, MI with funeral service commencing at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Dr. Major Stewart, officiating. Interment Sunset Hills Association, G-4413 Flushing Rd. Family and friends will assemble at church 10:00 a.m. Thursday. Dr. Lewis will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home and may be viewed from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday.

Billie Lewis grew up in El Reno, Oklahoma, riding a horse to school, helping his dad plow the fields with a mule, and watching his mom can and preserve fruits and vegetables. He was pretty much raised as an only child because both his sister, Lillie, and brother, George, died before Billie was six years old. Although he grew up in segregated Oklahoma of the 30's and 40's, he didn't personally experience the indignities of segregation because, until high school, he was completely isolated from it. During high school, as his horizons widened, he began to realize the huge disparities of segregation: he was not allowed to attend the all-white El Reno High School hence he experienced fewer high-level classes and had used, out-dated books. Yet he appreciated the commitment, dedication and high expectations of the African-American teachers in his small, Booker T. Washington High School.

He studied hard and made excellent grades at Booker T Washington High School where he also played tackle and guard on the football team. Every time the team took an out of town road trip, the only African-American doctor in town was always on the bus! That was his first motivation for wanting to become a doctor.....so he could go to all the high school football games for free!

He graduated from high school with honors and went to Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma, graduating cum laude. He didn't play football there and he wasn't yet a doctor so he played the trombone in the Langston University Marching Band.....so he could still see all the football games.....FOR FREE. He also pledged KAPPA ALPHA PSI Fraternity and jammed with a jazz band during his undergraduate years.

After college graduation, he was drafted by the US Army and served with the scientific research team designing missiles for the army at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Aberdeen, Maryland. He completed a two year stint in the army and enrolled in the University of Oklahoma Medical School.

He, Vivian Sanford and John Townsend were the only African-Americans in the entire Medical School. The three of them formed a study group and worked together successfully for a while. That didn't last too long because Billie and Vivian fell in love. That was the end of the study group but the beginning of a marriage that ended only upon Vivian's death, almost fifty years later.

Billie Lewis completed the University of Oklahoma Medical School and came to Flint where he completed his internship and surgical residency. He established himself in private practice.

Dr. Lewis was a member of the national, state and local associations of both the American Medical Association and National Medical Association. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a founding member of African-American Physicians Association of Genesee County.

Dr. Lewis has served many community organizations in a leadership capacity including the United Way, the Family Agency, Visiting Nurses, The American

Cancer Society, The Flint Public Library and The Salvation Army. He is a life member of the NAACP and until his health began to fail he served on the board of the Hamilton Community Health Network. He has continued to work with Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and with Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, his “heart” community organizations. Dr. Lewis has been a member of “The Mount” for over fifty years where he served as a Trustee, as a member of the last two Pastoral Selection Committees and as a member of the Floral Club.

Dr. Lewis was a member of the International Society of Who’s Who, a recipient of the Polemarch Leadership Award from Kappa Alpha Psi and the Fredrick Douglas Award from the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women.

At age eighty, he married his December love, Nina M. Goodwin Jones. Together they had four children, eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Dr. Billie Lewis is survived by his wife Nina M. Lewis; children: Vivian (James) Howard, MD of Indianapolis, Indiana, William P. Lewis, and Beverly L. Gooden, DC of Grapevine, Texas; Grandchildren: LaMarr Lee, Alan (Catherine) Lewis, David (Aislinn) Gooden, Christopher Gooden, Aaron Lewis, Amber Howard, Alyssa Howard, Billie Lewis, James Howard, Lance Howard, Alexis Jones; Great Grandchildren: LaMarr, Lachelle, Kyen, and Declen; cousin: Theola Cooper of Wichita, Kansas; brother and sister, Roland (Lillian) McGoodwin, DDS and Waldine McGoodwin Zeigler of Cincinnati, Ohio; other relatives and friends and Pastor Major A. Stewart and the Mount Olive Church Family.

Dr. Billie Lewis Broke Down Racial Barriers!

-He was the first African-American to do a four year surgical residency at Hurley.

- He was the first African-American to practice trauma surgery in Flint.
- He was the first African-American to serve on the surgical teaching staffs at both Hurley and St. Josephs Hospitals.
- He was the first African-American Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Genesee Memorial Hospital.
- He was the first African-American to become Chairman of the Medical Records department at Hurley.
- He was the first African-American to become Medical Director at A.C. and later Delphi, Divisions of General Motors.

Dr. Lewis' favorite Scripture is the 23rd Psalm for in this Scripture, he is assured of God's great provision, protection and promise.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

APR **20**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Chapel, Flint
906 W. Flint Park Blvd.
Flint, MI 48505
(810) 789-MOON (6666)
lemoonfhflint@gmail.com
<http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com>

Family hour

APR **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
424 Kennelworth Ave.
Flint, MI 48503

Service

APR **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
424 Kennelworth Ave.
Flint, MI 48503

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Billie Lewis*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *I JUST FOUND OUT TO NINA AND THE REST OF THE LEWIS FAMILY....MY HEART FELT CONDOLENCES.....TRUTH*

N. Jean Riddle-Jefferson & Family - May 28, 2016 at 09:37 PM



“ *Our sincere condolences to The Lewis family as we just found out of Billie's passing. May you find comfort in God's arms.*



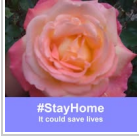
Driskell Family - May 01, 2016 at 08:11 PM



“ *Pat Cavette lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Pat Cavette - May 01, 2016 at 05:59 PM



“ *Pauletta Epps lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Pauletta Epps - April 23, 2016 at 08:00 AM



“ *Chantelle/Davita lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Chantelle/Davita - April 22, 2016 at 09:04 AM



“ *Elizabeth Cavette lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Elizabeth Cavette - April 21, 2016 at 11:48 AM



“ *Jean Montgomery lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Jean Montgomery - April 20, 2016 at 09:41 PM

BD

“ *Brenda Duckett-Greer lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Brenda Duckett-Greer - April 20, 2016 at 09:13 PM

SG

“ *You and your family were my family. Thank you! Love you & miss you! Tell my other mother "hi".*



Sibyl Lewis Gaines - April 20, 2016 at 07:29 PM

RW

“ *Regina M Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Regina M Williams - April 20, 2016 at 04:14 PM

YC

“ *Yvette Tucker Collins lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Yvette Tucker Collins - April 20, 2016 at 03:02 PM

AB

“ Althea Barbee lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Althea Barbee - April 20, 2016 at 08:43 AM



“ Chimene Hill lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



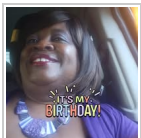
Chimene Hill - April 20, 2016 at 07:30 AM

DF

“ Deborah Fisher-Grant lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Deborah Fisher-Grant - April 19, 2016 at 09:48 PM



“ Sharon Mixon lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Sharon Mixon - April 19, 2016 at 09:18 PM

YT

“ Yvonne Tidwell lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Yvonne Tidwell - April 19, 2016 at 06:02 PM



“ 32 files added to the album Life Tributes



Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home - April 19, 2016 at 05:35 PM

HG

“ Henry And Gwendolyn Gaines lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Henry and Gwendolyn Gaines - April 19, 2016 at 04:57 PM

RK

“ *Russell & Diane Kirksey lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Russell & Diane Kirksey - April 19, 2016 at 03:26 PM

RS

“ *Raynetta Speed lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Raynetta Speed - April 19, 2016 at 01:51 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Billie Lewis.*



April 18, 2016 at 11:33 PM

VW

“ *Velma Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Velma Williams - April 18, 2016 at 10:57 PM

CJ

“ *Colleen Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Colleen Jenkins - April 18, 2016 at 08:07 PM



“ *Wanda Baker lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Wanda Baker - April 18, 2016 at 02:25 PM

DW

“ *Dan'dre & Freda Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Dan'dre & Freda Williams - April 18, 2016 at 01:52 PM

EM

“ *Eddie And Paulette McGhee lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Eddie and Paulette McGhee - April 18, 2016 at 01:30 PM

LC

“ *Leroy And Helen Collins lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Leroy and Helen Collins - April 18, 2016 at 12:49 PM

SE

“ *Sandra Epps sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Sandra Epps - April 18, 2016 at 12:17 PM



“ *RE-NAYE SANDERS lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



RE-NAYE SANDERS - April 18, 2016 at 02:52 AM

PW

“ *Pam Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Pam Williams - April 17, 2016 at 09:40 PM

DB

“ *David & Dana Bush lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



David & Dana Bush - April 17, 2016 at 09:04 PM

DK

“ *Doris E. Keels lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Doris E. Keels - April 17, 2016 at 06:42 PM

HA

“ *Hazel lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



hazel - April 17, 2016 at 06:18 PM

JS

“ *James And Tesdie Sharp lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



James and Tesdie Sharp - April 17, 2016 at 02:57 PM

GE

“ Gail Edwards lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Gail Edwards - April 17, 2016 at 08:55 AM

PW

“ Pam Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Pam Williams - April 17, 2016 at 01:15 AM

PW

“ Pam Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Pam Williams - April 17, 2016 at 01:13 AM

VW

“ To Nina and the Lewis Family,

Dr. Lewis was called by his heavenly father, and he answered his call. My thoughts and prayers are with you during your bereavement. Dr. Lewis was such a quite man with a Big Heart. May the memories of his kind words, and his lovely spirit live on in each one of you. He is resting in Jesus arms. The Williams Family



Valerie Williams - April 16, 2016 at 09:32 PM



“ Kimberly Hall-Miller lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Kimberly Hall-Miller - April 16, 2016 at 05:32 PM

DW

“ Diane Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Diane Williams - April 16, 2016 at 04:55 PM

MW

“ *Mary A. Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Mary A. Williams - April 16, 2016 at 04:53 PM

AB

“ *Althea Barbee lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Althea Barbee - April 16, 2016 at 04:53 PM

AM

“ *Annette Marks lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Annette Marks - April 16, 2016 at 12:35 PM

LG

“ *Linda Gulley lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Linda Gulley - April 16, 2016 at 10:51 AM

WH

“ *Wanda A Harrison lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Wanda A Harrison - April 16, 2016 at 10:02 AM

JG

“ *Julia M. Gamble lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Julia M. Gamble - April 15, 2016 at 09:23 PM

VS

“ *Valerie Southall lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



Valerie Southall - April 15, 2016 at 08:12 PM



“ *RE-NAYE SANDERS lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis*



RE-NAYE SANDERS - April 15, 2016 at 04:57 PM

ST

“ Shelley Reaves Thorn lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Shelley Reaves Thorn - April 15, 2016 at 03:58 PM

DB

“ May god bless the Lewis family in their time of sorrow. Death can be difficult ,but (Philippians 4:6,7) help because it encourages us to turn to God in prayer and he will give you peace and understanding.



Daisy Boone - April 15, 2016 at 03:17 PM

NJ

“ Norma Jones lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Norma Jones - April 15, 2016 at 02:04 PM

LB

“ Lynn Barbee lit a candle in memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Lynn Barbee - April 15, 2016 at 11:58 AM

GR

“ To Nina and the Lewis family,
My thoughts and prayers are with you during
your bereavement. Billie will be sadly missed.
God is our refuge and strength, a very
present help in time of trouble. (Psalm 46:1)
Love, Gloria, Ta-Nisha, and Ke'Lon Ross



Gloria Ross - April 15, 2016 at 11:32 AM

LP

“ LISA PAYTON sent a virtual gift in memory of
Dr. Billie Lewis



LISA PAYTON - April 15, 2016 at 09:38 AM

BW

“ Barbara Wright lit a candle in memory of Dr.
Billie Lewis



Barbara Wright - April 15, 2016 at 07:42 AM

JK

“ Jesse & Dorothy Kirksey lit a candle in
memory of Dr. Billie Lewis



Jesse & Dorothy Kirksey - April 14, 2016 at 05:58 PM