



Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis

February 5, 1949 - January 16, 2020

LEWIS, Mr. Otis Jerry - Age 70, passed away Thursday, January 16, 2020 at his residence. Family hour 11:00 AM Saturday, January 25, 2020 at Southeast Christian Center, 4171 Lapeer Rd., Burton, MI with funeral service commencing at 12:00 PM. Dist. Eld. Kenneth M. Brown Sr., officiating.

Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery, G-4200 Belford Rd., Holly, MI.

Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 11:00 AM Saturday. Mr. Lewis will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd. and may be viewed 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Friday.

On February 5, 1949, the world was introduced to Otis Jerry Lewis in Tyler town, Mississippi. He was born into the loving family of Otto Sr. and Ethel Lewis. As a child, "Boy-yay" as he was affectionately called by some of his family members enjoyed basketball, playing guitar, and fishing. The Lewis family left Mississippi for greater opportunities in Michigan when Jerry was a teenager. A product of Flint community schools, Jerry graduated from Northwestern High School in 1969 and soon after was drafted into the United States Army. While enlisted, he served as a Specialist in the Vietnam War where he was a marksman with training in CB/CM RADAR frequencies and awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, RVNCM for heroism/meritorious service, ARCOM 20/S BARS, and Silver Star Medal awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States. Upon returning home, Jerry united with his childhood sweetheart Della Thomas to which two daughters, Nelnetta and Ladel, were born.

Jerry was a dedicated worker at Fisher Body and Buick City. He retired from Buick City after having 36 years of service in the automotive plants. While employed for the factory, he worked as a team coordinator overseeing repairs throughout the plant. He was an active member of UAW local #599. In his spare time and in retirement, Jerry loved following football, continuing with his childhood love of fishing, and going to the casino, particularly Soaring Eagle. Being one who enjoyed entertaining, Jerry was one who could be found barbequing and frying fish for family and friends. Although he was not local, Jerry was an investor/part owner of Station Square Deli #2 in Memphis, TN. Additionally, his love for life lead him to be a member of the Third World Truckers Travelers. He was one who cared for those around him and was a "neighbor's neighbor." Truly, Jerry was loved by many and will be missed. Otis Jerry Lewis leaves to cherish his memory: daughters, Nelnetta Thomas of Atlanta, GA and Ladel Lewis (Shalom Williams) of Oxon Hill, MD; lifelong friend, Della Mae Thomas of Flint; grandchildren, Satonia Thomas of Atlanta, GA, Takiesha Rainey of Fairburn, GA, Lonnie Rainey of Roxboro, NC, Eunique Rhodes, Euriah Rhodes, both of Marietta, GA and Jaxon Williams of Flint; Great Grandchildren Kyleigh Allen, Kayden Collins, Nova Witherspoon and Kayvon Collins all of Georgia; Siblings Golden Eveline (Joseph) Smith of Columbia, TN, Alma Lewis of Culleoka, TN, Ezra Charles (Carolyn) Lewis of Macomb, Mississippi, Linda Lewis of Culleoka, TN, Brenda (Eddie) Merchant of Detroit, MI, and William (Deborah) Lewis of Lewisburg, TN; special friends Tonedia and Jerome Threlkeld, Tyrone "Wildflower" Carroll, Richard and Tiffany Needham, Richard Vaughn; many other family and friends still survive including long time companion Lois Booker.

Jerry was proceeded in death by his parents, Otto Sr. and Ethel Lewis; brother, Otto Lewis Jr.; nephew, Dennis Lewis; special cousin Mavis "Sue" Husband, and friends Ed Herfurth, Andy Yuroff, Robert Trumbo and Richard "Al" Vanhook, along with several of his Third World brothers.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

G-4200 Belford Rd.
Holly, MI 48442

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN 24. 12:00 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

JAN 25. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Southeast Christian Church
4171 Lapeer Rd.
Burton, MI 48509

Service

JAN 25. 12:00 PM (ET)

Southeast Christian Church
4171 Lapeer Rd.
Burton, MI 48509

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *We miss you O.J. I miss you making me laugh and eating ALL THE CANDY (we found your secret stash). Until we meet again dad* 💙



Ladel Lewis - March 25, 2020 at 09:40 AM



“ *Jacqueline Bridges lit a candle in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



Jacqueline Bridges - February 02, 2020 at 06:57 PM



“ *Jesse Kirksey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



Jesse Kirksey - January 25, 2020 at 01:09 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis.*



January 24, 2020 at 12:42 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the family..I will be praying for strength and understanding in your time of need..*



Cookie Lewis - January 23, 2020 at 11:38 PM



“ *Betty Brunson Riddle lit a candle in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



Betty Brunson Riddle - January 23, 2020 at 11:31 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis.*



January 23, 2020 at 07:39 PM

JW

“ *My condolences*



Jamie Williams - January 23, 2020 at 05:00 PM



“ *He was loved by many* 💜



Ladel Lewis - January 23, 2020 at 03:37 PM

CL

My deepest sympathy to you and family Ladel...Keeping you and family uplifted in Prayers...Jerry will be missed!!

Cookie Lewis - January 23, 2020 at 11:40 PM

VD

I can only imagine that he was loved by everyone that had the privilege to meet him. My heart felt condolences to you and your family. May the strength and peace of God be yours at this difficult time and may you find love and blessings in your beautiful gift of memories.

Vickie Dufour - January 24, 2020 at 10:48 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis.*



January 23, 2020 at 12:53 PM



“ *Catherine Roberts lit a candle in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



Catherine Roberts - January 23, 2020 at 07:34 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis.*



January 22, 2020 at 12:46 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis.*



January 22, 2020 at 10:52 AM

PE

“ *My condolences to the family. Sorry to hear of the passing of "Jerry" . Didn't know him by Otis until last year at the 1969 class reunion. Lived in the same block, went to school together. We all called him Jerry Lewis. Prayers to the family. Peggy Ester*



Peggy Ester - January 22, 2020 at 07:01 AM

AR

“ *Angela Ross & Family*



Angela Ross - January 22, 2020 at 06:52 AM

EB

“ *My condolences.*



Etta Brown - January 21, 2020 at 05:57 PM

MS

“ *Mary Jo Sekelsky lit a candle in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



Mary Jo Sekelsky - January 21, 2020 at 05:02 PM

TF

“ *The Cardwell Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



The Cardwell Family - January 21, 2020 at 11:58 AM

WS

“ *WYVONNE SKINNER sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



WYVONNE SKINNER - January 20, 2020 at 11:54 AM

VS

“ *Vern & Kevin Scroggins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



Vern & Kevin Scroggins - January 19, 2020 at 12:05 PM

SC

“ *To the family of It is Lewis. May God give you comfort as you endure this difficult time. It is is at peace now with my father in heaven. My condolences to you all and know I will keep his family uplifted in prayer.*

Sandra Copeland - January 19, 2020 at 11:13 AM

MJ

“ *Mavis Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



Mavis Johnson - January 18, 2020 at 09:11 PM

WF

“ *Williams Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



Williams Family - January 18, 2020 at 10:04 AM

RJ

“ *REV. JACKSON sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



REV. JACKSON - January 18, 2020 at 07:45 AM

SS

“ *Sallie Savage lit a candle in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



Sallie Savage - January 18, 2020 at 07:04 AM

LG

“ *Latrice Greene lit a candle in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



Latrice Greene - January 17, 2020 at 06:20 PM

PR

“ *Patricia Roberts lit a candle in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



Patricia Roberts - January 17, 2020 at 05:34 PM

TT

“ *Tonedia Threlkeld lit a candle in memory of Mr. Otis Jerry Lewis*



Tonedia Threlkeld - January 17, 2020 at 10:25 AM