

### *Pallbearers*

Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

### *Flower Bearers*

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Deaconess of Dexter Avenue King

### *Acknowledgment*

The family of the late *Rufus A. Lewis* wishes to express their deep, sincere appreciation for all the acts of kindness, love and care shown during his illness and our bereavement.

A very special thanks to the medical staff of Jackson Hospital's S.I.C.U., L.T.C.H., and to his daily health care givers.

*The Family*

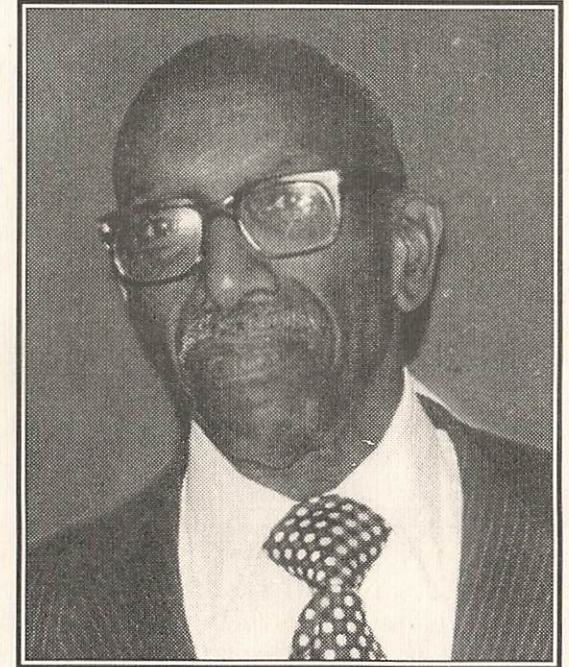


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*A Celebration of Life for*

## *Rufus Andrew Lewis*

November 30, 1906 — August 19, 1999



Monday, August 23, 1999  
1:00 p.m.

*Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church*  
*Rev. Michael Foxx Thurman, Pastor*

OFFICIATING

Rev. G. Murray Branch

INTERMENT

Greenwood-Serenity Garden Cemetery  
Montgomery, Alabama

***Ross-Clayton Funeral Home***

Montgomery, Alabama • DIRECTING



## Obituary

**Rufus Andrew Lewis** was born on November 30, 1906, to the late Lula and Jerry Lewis in Montgomery, Alabama. He was the youngest of four children. His sisters, Roberta, Janie and Corrine preceded him in death. His early education was in Montgomery County where he attended State Normal and Bethel College. He was a graduate of Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.

He returned to Montgomery and joined the faculty at Alabama State Teachers College as Athletic Coach and Librarian. Soon afterwards, he met and married the late Jule Adelaide Clayton. They were blessed with one child, Eleanor Lewis Dawkins.

Lewis was a member of Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, Southern Pride Lodge No. 431, A. A. Peters Masonic Lodge No. 900, National Urban League and a Charter Member of Alpha Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

He was a Civil Rights Activist since the 1940's. He became involved in Voter Registration believing that in order to be a full fledged citizen you must be registered to vote. He taught Veterans returning from World War II. Lewis believed that if a man could go to war and fight for his country, he should also be entitled to vote. The Veterans School was at St. Jude and Booker T. Washington High Schools. In the early 50's, Coach Lewis owned and operated the Citizens Club, where to be a member, you had to be a registered voter or be enrolled in classes to become a registered voter.

During this time, Coach Lewis was the founder and first chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Conference, Second Congressional District Democratic Conference and the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC), which is the Black Caucus of the state Democratic Party. Lewis later became Chairman of the Transportation Committee for the Montgomery Bus Boycott. He was co-founder of

the Montgomery Improvement Association; East Montgomery Branch of N.A.A.C.P., and New Southland Corporation, a group whose purpose was to help save land for black landowners and help with the proper utilization and management of that land. He served on the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Community Action Committee and the Montgomery Parks and Recreation Board.

He was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1976, and gave up that position to accept the appointment by President Jimmy Carter, to become the first black United States Marshall for the Middle District of Alabama since reconstruction.

In 1994, a public library was dedicated and named in his honor. In 1995, Coach Lewis was inducted into the Alabama State Sports Hall of Fame.

He was co-owner of Ross-Clayton Funeral Home, Inc., where he served as Secretary-Treasurer and chairman of the Board of Directors.

Survivors include his daughter, Eleanor Lewis Dawkins, foster daughter, Julia (Melvin) Thomas, Pomona, Calif; grandchildren, Karen Dawkins, Montgomery, AL, Kevin (Karrie) Dawkins, Arvada, CO, and Ken (Kimberley) Dawkins, Aurora, CO; great grandchildren, Cameron, Aurora, CO and Aimee and Brian, Arvada, CO; nieces and nephews, Mrs. Virginia (Joseph) Dickerson, Montgomery, AL, Mrs. Mildred (James) Hall, Montgomery, AL and Robert (Shirley) Mitchell, New York; very special friend, R. W. Pringle, Montgomery, AL; several grand nieces and nephews, many devoted friends and associates.

A very special thanks to all the many men and women who worked with Coach Lewis before and during the Voter Registration and Civil Rights Movement, it was the joy of his life.

## Order of Service

PROCESSIONAL .....Soft Music

HYMN .....“Amazing Grace”

SCRIPTURE .....Rev. M. F. Thurman  
Old and New Testament

PRAYER .....Rev. L. F. Ross, Sr.

OBITUARY ... Read Silently ...Flute Solo  
“His Eye is on the Sparrow”

RECOLLECTIONS .....Mr. Fred Bennett

HYMN .....“It is Well”

EULOGY .....Rev. G. Murray Branch

RECESSIONAL .....Soft Music