

Whenever a line of applicants begins to form, Housing Authority director Wiley Thomas has to join them in line and to stand with them until the final application is completed. We bet conditions for applicants would improve dramatically and immediately.

FIRST BLACK MARSHAL



File photo

Civil rights leader Rufus Lewis, who died Thursday, is shown being sworn in as a U.S. marshal by the late federal judge Frank Johnson.

Rufus Lewis true hero of movement

His was not one of the more widely known names in the civil rights movement, but Rufus Lewis of Montgomery was an important figure nonetheless. Lewis, who died Thursday, was a tireless worker for civil rights even before the movement caught the national consciousness.

Lewis made history by becoming the first black U.S. marshal in the Middle District of Alabama, but his work in improving life in this area began decades before that honor came his way. He was a quiet but effective leader in voter registration efforts and during the Montgomery bus boycott.

Leader

Rufus Lewis made great contributions to the civil rights movement.

His considerable legacy lives on not only in voter rolls that are open to all who are eligible without regard to race, but also in his historically valuable collection of papers, now held at Trenholm State Technical College. A public library branch is named in his honor.

In a time when working for civil rights required both moral and physical courage, Rufus Lewis accepted the challenge and made lasting contributions to his community and his state.

GOOD MORNING, GOVERNOR

Your willingness to make time to talk personally about the importance of reading gives a boost to students and teachers. We hope you can find ways to encourage more adults to participate in literacy programs, too.

has become. Not broken in the theological sense that can lead to confession and repentance, but, depending on the candidate, a brokenness reflected in school shootings, or abortion, or incivility, or even bad TV and movies.

What none of the candidates acknowledged was that government, even if it might be headed by one of them, mostly lacks the power to substantially right those wrongs. For conservatives to suggest it does aligns them with the misplaced faith of liberals.

Conservatives, especially those whose views are shaped in part or in whole by religious notions, are placing too much faith in the state for deliverance. Politicians are happy to have their votes and will make religious-sounding grunts in attempts to win them. This is why it should give pause when Gov. George W. Bush tells a journalist he has "accepted Jesus" and

then use associate deemed.

Yes, a to influence the make Court, wh matters. I the power Jeremy R current P ecting p the work studies is ing to find tion from Popular c debased t but it was standards it."

Religious will again picked if t faith in po

ACLU strang

By Stan Watson

As much as I dislike many of the positions of the ACLU on Constitutional issues, there was a time, nonetheless, when I could at least be sure of where it stood. The ACLU stood for the principle that private citizens, even if they were school students, could express any opinion, use any language, and advocate for any belief they chose, without unreasonable government interference.

The ACLU brought a landmark case in 1969 to establish the right of public school students to express controversial political beliefs on school property, during school time, free from unreasonable interference from school officials. The case of *Tinker v. Des Moines* gave us the memorable constitutional principle that students do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate." It said that students are free to express even controversial opinions during the school day, as long as they do not create a "material and substantial interference with schoolwork or discipline."



Alabama

Now in the *dler v. Jame* appeals court a ruling for ty schools t the fundame *Tinker v. D* ACLU is liv

The court lower court required the burdensome student expr the students ticularly con

Indeed, the "the govern First Amend restricts a s "solely to su of view he es sounds like ruling the A plaud.

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ter-in-law, Jimmy Hardy of Prattville, AL and Fred (Brenda) Holley of Ashland, AL; one sister, Sallie G. Smoke of Sandy, OR; three sisters-in-law, Mrs. Dan (Shirley) Greene of Eclectic, AL, Lois H. Taylor of Alex City, AL and Bea Greene of Prattville, AL; 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family request that memorial contributions be made to ones favorite charity.

Bell Funeral Home

Hayneville, AL 548-5122

CRAWFORD, Caille J., a resident of White Hall, AL, died Friday, August 20, 1999. Funeral services and survivors will be announced by Bell Funeral Home.

MCCALL, Debra J., a resident of Leto-hatchee, AL, died Friday, August 20, 1999. Funeral services and survivors will be announced by Bell Funeral Home.

Dillard Funeral Home

1-800-239-8082

Brundidge Troy
(334) 735-2375 (334) 566-1720

WILSON, Pike, age 95, a resident of Ten-nille Rd., Brundidge, AL, died Wednesday, August 18, 1999 at Edge Regional Medical Center. Funeral services will be held at Springfield Baptist Church on Sunday, August 22, 1999 beginning at 2:00 p.m. with Reverend E. T. Horton, Reverend John Emfinger and Reverend Chuck Blair officiating. Interment will be in Springfield Cemetery in Brundidge, AL with Dillard Funeral Home directing. There will be a 1 hour lie-in-state prior to the service. Survivors include his wife, Ina B. Wilson, Brundidge, AL; daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and Albert Bryant, Brundidge, AL; two sons and daughters-in-law, Jerry and Betty Wilson, Spanish Fort, AL and Simuel and Julia Wilson, Montgomery, AL; seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Pallbearers will be James Albert Bryant, Jeff Wilson, Darrell Wilson, Johnny Bryant, Jack Kearney, Jonathan Steed, Randy Bryant and Shaun Williamson. Visitation will be at Dillard Funeral Home in Brundidge on Saturday, August 21, 1999 between 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Ross Clayton

Montgomery, AL 262-3889

KNIGHT, Ms. Sarah, a resident of 432 Empire Terrace, expired August 19, 1999. Funeral arrangements and survivors will be announced by Ross-Clayton Funeral Home.

LEWIS, Mr. Rufus A., a resident of 801 Bol-livar Street, expired August 19, 1999. Funeral services will be Monday, August 23, 1999 at 1:00 p.m. from Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church with Rev. G. Murray officiating. Rev. Michael Thurman, Pastor. Burial will be in Green-wood Cemetery with Ross-Clayton Funeral Home directing. Survivors include daughter, Eleanore Lewis Dawkins, Montgomery, AL; foster daughter, Julia (Melvin) Thomas, Pomona, CA; grandchildren, Karen Dawkins, Montgomery, AL, Kevin (Kamie) Dawkins, Arvada, CO and Ken (Kimberly) Dawkins, of Aurora, CO; great-grandchildren, Cameron, Aurora, CO and Brian and Aimee, Arvada, CO; nieces and nephews, Virginia (Joseph) Dickerson, Montgomery, AL, Mildred (James) Hall, Montgomery, AL, Robert Mitchell, New York and several grandnieces and nephews and many devoted friends and associates. Contributions can be given in continuing the legacy of Hon. Rufus A. Lewis to Fren-holm State Technical College's Archives, Special Collections of Montgom-ery's Pioneer Voting Rights Activities.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lewis key figure in boycott success

I would like to thank the *Advertiser* for such a fine tribute to Rufus Lewis in your recent article "Rufus Lewis True Hero of the Movement" and the excellent coverage of his funeral with an article and photos.

I would like to expand the facts about the late Rufus A. Lewis. Your article left out the fact that Lewis was called Coach Lewis by everyone and indeed was a long-standing athletic coach at Alabama State. Your article also mentioned that he was involved on the transportation committee of the Montgomery bus boycott. This minimizes Lewis' actual involvement — he was chairman of the transportation committee for the whole year that the boycott went on.

He was the brilliant and hard-working organizer of the complex schedules of car pools for the station wagons assigned by the Montgomery Improvement Association and for the volunteer drivers. The bus boycott could not have succeeded for such a long period of time without the extraordinary efforts of Lewis. Thus, he truly was a "King maker," as Rev. Murray Branch stated in his eulogy, a key man behind the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Rufus Lewis, like the late E.D. Nixon, is one of the unsung heroes of the Montgomery bus boycott.

Micki Beth Stiller
Montgomery

Big-bucks CEOs not deserving

Productivity and big profits are not necessarily synonymous. Many Fortune 500 CEOs receive megabucks, yet the bottom line in their profit is not synonymous with their being productive.

There is a lot of politics going on and a lot of people are receiving big bucks not for productivity but because of what and who they know, and how well they play the political economic game.

Joyce Thomas
Fort Deposit



Lloyd Gallman Staff

Rufus Lewis of Montgomery, who was eulogized by Gov. Don Siegelman, was an unsung hero of the civil rights movement, a reader writes.

Exemptions take tax base

Our great nation cannot maintain its standard of living on the backs of the poor. Thirty-six states are trying to do this with lotteries and gambling casinos.

For 300 years, Central and South America have used gambling as a source of revenue. That is the main reason they are 1,000 years behind our country.

Is it happening in our country? Yes. Why? Our tax base has been destroyed by organized superstition.

Billions of dollars in tax

revenue are lost to building and remodeling these piety warehouses. Many of the builders, suppliers, workers, land owners, and members write off hundreds of billions of tax money for these warehouses.

It is to the point where you can start a tax-exempt business if the business is called a church or religion. Every conceivable kind of business — parking lots, feed mills, clothing stores, book stores, real estate, restaurants, apartments — has destroyed our tax base.

Bill Teague
Eclectic

What about year-round schools?

Montgomery's public schools — with the exception of Paterson Elementary — begin the school year on Monday, operating on the traditional nine-month calendar. Paterson will operate on a year-round schedule. Should the entire system go to year-round school, with a series of shorter breaks instead of the long summer vacation? Why, or why not?

Tell us what you think. Share your views with us in the following ways:

Call 240-0160 with comments, or fax to 261-1597. Send e-mail by logging on to the Advertiser's Web page at www.accessmontgomery.com and clicking on Letters to the Editor. A selection of responses will be printed Sunday.



Defense has been

On Aug. 1, a robbery took place in a parking lot. The woman helped at the time and no one was injured.

Why did my opinion of the lawmaker change? Our rights and each other had tried to and had shown her defense been tried convicted.

It is the own home in your home law, you flee. The shoot a bullet you and you have no room cannot even property, let someone else the burglar for murder burglar do will be convicted.

If someone help the woman Mart parker attacker, the paid director is why criminal.

Malcolm D.
Glenwood

Critic of correct

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Samuel J. M.
Montgomery

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Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery



Friday
Aug. 20, 1999

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Rufus Lewis remembered for devotion to civil rights

By Ron Ellis
Montgomery Advertiser

Rufus Lewis, one of Montgomery's most prominent civil rights activists, died Thursday at Jackson Hospital at age of 92.

"He was a committed champion for those who had been abused and mistreated. He devoted his life to making the lives of others better, and he never gave up," said John Dickerson, a former Montgomery City Council president.

The 3095 Mobile Highway branch of the public library named in Lewis' honor.

Among his accomplishments, Lewis:

- Spearheaded voter registration drives for blacks in Montgomery in the 1940s and 1950s.



Lewis

- Helped black workers get transportation to their jobs during the boycott of the city's bus system in 1955-56.

- Nominated the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to be president of the Montgomery

Long shadow: Rufus Lewis, a civil rights activist in Montgomery, died Thursday at Jackson Hospital at the age of 92

Improvement Association.

"He was simply a giant among men," said Riley Lewis, a journalist who is not related to Rufus Lewis. "He was a tireless proponent of voting rights. He would show people how to vote, and if necessary, would make sure they got to the polls."

Dickerson worked side-by-side with Lewis in the civil rights movement for 35 years. He said Rufus Lewis' passion for voting rights was sparked

by black soldiers who in the mid-1940s were returning to Montgomery after World War II.

"There we were fighting so that all Americans could be free, and we weren't truly free ourselves. We couldn't vote. When I came back from Europe, Rufus was organizing classes to teach us about voting," Dickerson said.

Lewis' marriage to the daughter of the owners of the Ross-Clayton Funeral Home

and subsequent heavy involvement in the business' operation played a role in his ability to keep involved in the civil rights movement.

"That was a significant factor in his ability to do all those civil rights things. He was financially independent, and the white power structure could not pressure him the way they could some others," Dickerson said.

In his many decades in the civil rights movement, Lewis worked hand-in-hand with Martin Luther King, Ralph Abernathy, and many of the other notable leaders of the day.

OBITUARY

Lewis became the first black U.S. marshal from the state of Alabama when he was appointed to the position in 1976 by then-President Jimmy Carter. He resigned his seat in the Alabama House of Representatives to accept the post.

"My father led a full and very productive life. His good deeds will long be remembered," said Lewis' daughter, Eleanor Dawkins.

Lewis' funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Monday at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, 454 Dexter Ave.

Montgomery Advertiser

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Tuesday

Aug. 24, 1999

FYI 2C
Alabama 3C
Obituaries 4C



Photos by Lloyd Gallman Staff

Gov. Don Siegelman talks with the Rev. Thomas Earl Jones on Monday following the funeral of Rufus Lewis.

Activist pushed others to succeed



Fred Bennett shares his memories of Rufus Lewis during the funeral service Monday afternoon.

Many duties: Rufus Lewis helped create the Montgomery Improvement Association

By Alvin Benn
Montgomery Advertiser

Gov. Don Siegelman joined more than 200 mourners Monday honoring the memory of Rufus Lewis, a low-profile leader who spent much of his time encouraging and challenging others to excel.

Lewis, who died last Thursday at the age of 92, had several successful careers of his own. He was a civil rights activist, farmer, coach, federal law enforcement official, legislator and funeral home owner.

He may have lacked the charisma of men such as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., but Lewis had a unique, behind-the-scenes dynamism that won him a different kind of fame.

Lewis Page 4C

SALUTES TO LEWIS

The following are some of the salutes to the late civil rights leader Rufus Lewis given during his funeral Monday afternoon:

Gov. Don Siegelman: "I first met him 25 years ago when I was sent down from Birmingham to meet the movers and shakers of Montgomery. He (Lewis) would take time to help anyone regardless of their skin color. I think the biggest smile I ever saw on him was the day he was sworn in as a U.S. Marshal."

Fred Bennett: "He taught us that we could participate on the responsibility side as well as on the receiving side. He showed us how to intelligently case our vote."

William Minter: "Our community has lost a good citizen and leader."

Rev. L.F. Ross Sr.: "He contributed to both civil rights and human rights."

Lewis: Civil rights activist mourned

From Page 1C

"Sometimes we wait too long ... sometimes we wait until after they are gone to sing their greatness," said Siegelman, who was added to the service at the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church Monday afternoon.

Siegelman and others who rose to honor Lewis said longevity had enabled him to savor the praise that came his way after decades of hard work in a variety of endeavors.

One was helping to create the Montgomery Improvement Association, which played a key role in launching the modern civil rights era in the 1950s. He also was one of the first blacks elected to the Alabama Legislature and the first black U.S. Marshal appointed in central Alabama.

"He was a man of fairness...a man who contributed much to many," said Siegelman, who sat in the front row of the crowded church.

Although Lewis was involved in many projects, most people called him "coach" because of his activity in athletic programs at Alabama State University, which was known at the time as Alabama State Teachers College.

Lewis' involvement in the civil rights movement touched many people, including Jarome Thomas, who fought in Korea and got a civics lesson from Lewis when he came home.

"Coach really got on my case about registering (to vote)," said Thomas, as he waited for the service to begin. "He said I had fought



Lloyd Gallman Staff

The Rev. M.F. Thurman and the Rev. G. Murray Branch greet Eleanor Dawkins after the funeral service for her father, Rufus Lewis, Monday at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. Behind Dawkins is her son, Ken Dawkins.

for freedom and that ballots were better than bullets. I haven't missed an election since 1954."

State Reps. John Knight and Thad McClammy attended, along with Montgomery Councilman Joe Reed and Jerome Gray of the Alabama Democratic Conference — another group which Lewis helped to nurture.

Although he didn't have a large farm, Lewis took an interest in agriculture and did what he could to save black-owned farm land, said Fred Bennett, who was called on to

reminisce about Lewis.

The Rev. G. Murray Branch, former pastor at the church, said in the main eulogy that Lewis' ability to work behind the scenes helped to provide dramatic changes for Montgomery and the rest of the country.

"(Lewis) was a person who was among the 'King-makers,'" said Branch, referring to the arrival of King as a young Montgomery pastor just as the civil rights movement was beginning. "He was an example of what a great leader is."

8A Wednesday, Sept. 8, 1999

Montgomery Advertiser

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Editorial page editor

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER
Incorporating the Alabama Journal, 1993

Lewis collection open for study

Thank you for your wonderful coverage of the late Rufus A. Lewis. More importantly, thank you for the many articles, including a front-page story you published about him while he was still with us. When we

would show him the articles with his picture, he would smile and state his appreciation that people still remember his service to make democracy work for all of us.

We invite the public to vis-

it the archives at H. Council Trenholm State Technical College. The Lewis Collection has more than 10,000 documents and small artifacts. It is my hope that a graduate student will write a dissertation about this remarkable

man, who almost single-handedly encouraged and assisted an entire African-American generation to register to vote.

Gwendolyn M. Patton
Archivist
Trenholm State
Technical College
Montgomery