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Montgomery Advertiser

*Opinion
Editorial*

Montgomery

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Friday
Aug. 20, 1999

FYI	2B
Alabama	3B
Obituaries	4B

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Rufus Lewis remembered for devotion to civil rights

By Ron Ellis
Montgomery Advertiser

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"He was a committed
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He devoted his life to making
the lives of others better, and
he never gave up," said Jo-
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The 3095 Mobile Highway
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is named in Lewis' honor.

Among his accomplishments,
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Ross-Clayton Funeral Home

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OBITUARY

Lewis became the first
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"My father led a full and
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Lewis' funeral will be held
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Honor: Police began
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MURRAY, Arthur Lee Jr., (Sonny), age 56, a resident of 336 Conley Street expired August 17, 1999. Funeral services will be held on Monday, August 23, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. from Clay Street Baptist Church with Rev. Babie officiating, Rev. Griffin (Pastor). Interment will be held at Kindie Cemetery with E.G Cummings Memorial Funeral Home directing. He leaves to cherish his memories a wife, Linda A. Murray; son, Arthur Lee (Linda A.) Murray, III; daughter, Stacey Yvonne (Michael) Barneffe; brother, Ralph Yvonne Murray; sister, Ernestine (Earl) Jackson, all of Detroit, MI; two uncles,

cousins, nieces, nephews and friends of the family Robert Lee Johnson, Charles (Inez) Everage, Bill Mac Rogers and Leon Holly.

Alabama Heritage
Robert Moulton, III 215-0180
10505 Atlanta Highway

ROBBINS, Mr. Donald E. (Retired MGM Police Officer), 68, a resident of Montgomery, AL, died Thursday, August 19, 1999. Arrangements will be announced Sunday, August 22, 1999.

Alabama Heritage Announcing

Leak-Memory Chapel
K. Sansom D. Jones
945 Lincoln Road

SKINNER, Thomas Sidney, 92, a resident of Montgomery and formerly of Millbrook, AL, died Friday, August 20, 1999 in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held on Sunday, August 22, 1999 at 3:00 p.m. from Leak-Memory Chapel. Visitation will be held one hour to the service. Complete arrangements and survivors will be announced at a later time.

Leak-Memory Chapel Announcing

Prattville Memorial Chapel
Prattville, AL 334-365-7147
Tom & Carol Huntington

HALL, Lillian Weaver, 84, a resident of Biloxi, MS, died on Friday, August 20, 1999 at a health care facility in Montgomery, AL. A graveside service will be held on Monday, August 23, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. from Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola, FL, with Reverend Ronny Allen officiating with Prattville Memorial Chapel directing. Mrs. Hall was preceded in death by her husband, Charles W. Hall. She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Dottie and Jerry Lawrence, Biloxi, MS and Patsy and Gordon Allen, Prattville, AL; two sons and daughters-in-law, Ronald and Phyllis Kennedy, Atlanta, GA and Charles W. Jr., and Becky Hall, Richmond, VA; 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. In lieu of floral tributes, memorial donations may be sent to the Heritage Baptist Church, 1357 South Memorial Drive, Prattville, AL 36067. The family will receive friends at Heritage Baptist Church, on Saturday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 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 Bolivar 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 Greenwood 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 (Karlie) Dawkins, Arvada, CO and Ken (Kimberly) Dawkins, of Aurora, CO; great-grandchildren, Cameron, Aurora, CO and Brian and Almee, 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 Trenchum State Technical College's Archives, Special Collections of Montgomery's Pioneer Voting Rights Activists.

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Ridout's Prattville Chapel
Prattville, AL, 334-365-5982
Steve Campbell, Manager

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Bell Funeral Home
Hayneville, AL 548-5122

CRAWFORD, Callie 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 Letohatchee, 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 Tenille 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.

FUNERAL SERVICE

& Floral Directory



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262-1611 EXT. 335

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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.

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.

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.

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.



Defer

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

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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 who helped at the time and no one else.

Why did my opinion of a lawbreaker change? Our rights and each other had tried and had seen her defense been tried convicted.

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

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

Malcolm D.
Glenwood

Critic of correct

I a recent or, I opined activity is behavior. In to the editor readers who me accused otry and in ingly, she homophobia wing extre

Had she ing a Chris had the sat ing she und basis of my **Samuel J. M.** Montgomery

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



Cal Th

then use associated deemed.

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

Religion will again picked if t faith in po

ACLU strange

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 fundam *Tinker v. D* ACLU is liv

The court lower court required the burdensome student exp the students ticularly cor

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, Callie 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 Letohatchee, 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

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

Troy

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 Bolivar 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 Greenwood 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 (Karrie) 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 Trenchum State Technical College's Archives, Special Collections of Montgomery's Pioneer Voting Rights Activities.

Montgomery Advertiser

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Friday
Aug. 20, 1999

FYI
Alabama
Obituaries

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 the 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 Joseph Dickerson, a former Montgomery City Council president.

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

Among his accomplishments, Lewis:

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



Lewis

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.

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