

*Lewis Melvin Lowe*, son of the late Cooper Lowe and the late Bobbie Lowe, was born in Americus, Georgia on April 14, 1928. On October 27, 2020, Lewis departed this life after a brief illness.

Lewis was a lifelong resident of Americus, Georgia who led a meaningful and productive life. After graduating from McCoy Hill Elementary, Staley High School, Morehouse College and New York University, Lewis served his country in Korea on a tour of duty in the United States Army. After a short stint of living in Chicago, he returned home to take care of his ailing father and Lewis decided to make Americus his permanent home.

Lewis always felt that education was key to making his community better. He started his career as a teacher in the Americus Public School System, where he was most noted as a high school history teacher at A.S. Staley High School and when the opportunity arose, he later transitioned to become a school principal at Southeast Elementary in the Sumter County Public Schools. Along the way, he started a family with his first wife, Sara Cannon and they had a son, Earl Lowe. Later in life, he married, Essie Floyd and started a whole new chapter in his life.

During the Civil Rights era, Lewis participated in the “night watch”, a group of community men dedicated to keeping our neighborhoods safe. Lewis never had a problem sharing his opinion on any issue. He found the perfect stage in public service when he ran and was successfully elected to become the first African American to the Americus City Council—a position he held for over a decade. Lewis continued to work to improve his community as a member of the Americus Housing Board and was on the Middle Flint Planning Commission, where he was seeking to improve economic conditions in the Southwest Georgia region.

Lewis deeply believed in being an active member and leader in his community. He was a life member of the American Legion and held the position of Post Commander. He was a life member of the Free Masons—St. John Lodge #17 Prince Hall Affiliation—for over 71 year and a member of the Cavalier Social Club and the Investment Club Lambda Enterprises.

Lewis was a God-fearing man who was a member of Big Bethel Baptist Church. In his younger days, he was heavily involved with the church’s move from Lamar Street to build a new sanctuary on Jackson Street. Lewis became a deacon and chaired the Deacon Board, but what he loved most was being a teacher in Sunday School, where he got the opportunity to train young minds in following the teachings of Jesus Christ.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

Lewis is preceded in death by brothers: Jimmy, Cooper, James and Henry Lowe.

Those left to cherish the memory of Lewis Lowe include: wife, Essie Lowe; son, Earl (Janet Blount) Lowe of Baltimore, MD; daughters: Symatha (Willie) Drains of Buford, SC; Sophia Muldrow of Americus, GA; Sabrina Barnes of Atlanta, GA; grandchildren: Jonathan Lowe of Savannah, GA; Benjamin Lowe of San Angelo, TX; Brandon Samas, Arlington, VA; James Harris of Americus, GA; La Gashia Reddick, Charlotte, NC; Ashley (Willie) Drains Carter, Statesboro, GA; Anthonae Muldrow of Americus, GA; McKenzie Muldrow of Americus, GA; Tatum Barnes of Atlanta, GA; sister-in-law, Elizabeth Lowe; cousins: Albert (Edith) Dowdell of Baltimore, MD; Ann Smith Fuller, Emmarene Streeter, Lisa Valentine, Torey Smith, John Wright, all of Americus, GA; Barbara Jean Frost of Atlanta, GA; Onita Watson of Warner Robins, GA; Johnnie May Burrell of New Jersey; Brenda Wilson of Cleveland, OH; nieces and nephews: Edwina Hill, Larry Jackson, Florence Bell, Kenneth and Donald Dollar, all of Atlanta, GA; Jerome Lowe, Sharon Lowe, Jade Lowe and Tony Lowe of, all of New York, NY; in-laws: Lillie Bell Dunning, Charles Furlow, Doris Furlow, Robert Furlow, Albertdine Furlow, all of Americus, GA and a host of other relatives also survive.