



## Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr.

January 27, 1939 - December 7, 2018

William "Bill" Wesley Lawrence, Sr. was born January 27, 1939 in Chadbourn, N.C. to the late Horace and Mary Brinkley Lawrence. He was the 10th child of 15 children. His parents, 8 brothers and sisters, and one son, Ronnie Dean Dowdy, preceded him in death.

His love for education began in the Columbus County School System in Chadbourn where he graduated from Westside High School in 1957. As a skilled farmer, for many of his peers that would have been the transition to the work world, however, he was driven to higher education initially pursuing a degree in Chemistry from North Carolina College. After working for a short period of time, he was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served our country at Madigan General Hospital in Tacoma, Washington as a Medical Technologist, ultimately pursuing and receiving certification.

While there he also made the wise choice to ask for the hand in marriage of his school sweetheart, Queen Elizabeth Wooten. With her acceptance began a union of almost 53 years which he cherished from day one until the day he departed this life.

With her support, he continued his drive for education pursuing a Masters in Counseling Psychology from North Carolina Central University while also working fulltime as a Chemist at Liggett & Myers and shortly thereafter, made

the decision to pursue his Doctorate of Philosophy in Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill which he received in 1974.

His educational career from there includes faculty positions at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville Tehnical Community College, Vance Community College, and until retirement, serving as a full professor at North Carolina Central University. Throughout and after his educational career, he served as a dissertation advisor for a host of doctoral students.

His career also included serving as Director of Counseling at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and a seven -year term on the Durham City School Board of Education. In line with his drive for education, he became: a licensed real estate broker, a state certified funeral director and embalmer, a licensed behavioral health professional, a licensed insurance agent, and served as an entrepreneur running Eagle Special-Tees, a screen-printing company.

At an early age, he confessed his life to Christ and was baptized at First Missionary Baptist Church in Chadbourn, N.C. After moving to Durham, he joined Community Baptist Church where he served in the Chancellor Choir, as a Trustee, member of the Building and Christian Education Committees, and the Laymen's League.

Bill was an active member in several professional organizations: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, American Couseling Association, American Psychological Asoociation, Life Member of NAACP, and served as a field surveyor for K-CREP. He was a leader in the Westside Alumni Association and served as National President. He also was a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.

When he had free time, William enjoyed reading, any debate someone was willing to participate in, supporting family events, reading, traveling, mentoring young people, reading, playing poker and bid-whist, watching sports, and reading. He loved automobiles, suits, ties, shoes, home cooked meals, a good crab fest or oyster roast, and visits with his children, family, students and friends.

William planted his family legacy, on February 1st, 1966, when he married his best friend, Queen. This union was blessed with two children, "Buddy" William Jr., (Kansas City, M.O.), and "my baby girl" Lori, (McLeansville, N.C.). He is also survived by his daughter-in-law, Glenda N. Dowdy, (Fayetteville, N.C.). Three grandchildren: Ronald (Honolulu, H.I.), Robert (Burbank, C.A.), and Alisha (Seattle, W.A.). His latest apple of the eye Jayla Dean. Four sisters: Mary Jane Flowers, Annie Lee Lawrence, Evangeline "Patsy" McBride, and Clara Dunn (Wayne). Two brothers: Roosevelt Lawrence and Walter Lawrence (Shirley). Two brothers-in-law Henry Delon Wooten (Virginia), Leon Wooten (Barbara), and two sisters-in-law Gracie Lawrence and Harlene Wooten-Walters. Four generations of nieces, nephews, and cousins and a host of friends.

Funeral services will take place on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at Peace Missionary Baptist Church, 2608 NC Highway 55, Durham, N. C. 27713 at 12:00 p.m., with a family visitation one hour prior to the service. There will also be a Kappa Alpha Psi ceremony at 10:30 a.m., prior to the visitation.

Interment will take place on Sunday, December 16, 2018 at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery, 5548 Silver Spoon Rd, Whiteville, N.C. 28472 at 2:00 p.m.

Donations may be made to The Mary Lawrence Family Scholarship.

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery

5548 Silver Spoon Road  
Whiteville, NC 28472

# Previous Events

## Kappa Alpha Psi Rites

DEC 15. 10:30 AM (ET)

Peace Missionary Baptist Church  
2608 NC Highway 55  
Durham, NC 27713  
<http://peacemissionary.org/>

## Visitation

DEC 15. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Peace Missionary Baptist Church  
2608 NC Highway 55  
Durham, NC 27713  
<http://peacemissionary.org/>

## Celebration of Life

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DEC 15. 12:00 PM (ET)

Peace Missionary Baptist Church  
2608 NC Highway 55  
Durham, NC 27713  
<http://peacemissionary.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr.*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *Wishing you and your family peace to bring you comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart.  
I am deeply sorry about the loss of your Father. Praying for you and your family.*

**Raymond Dukes** - December 15, 2018 at 08:09 PM



“ *My sincerest condolences to the Lawrence family. May God keep you during this season of loss.*

**Wanda Foxworth Fike** - December 15, 2018 at 02:55 PM



“ *"May God give you strength and courage to face tomorrow."*



**Frederick and Bettie Smith** - December 14, 2018 at 06:03 PM

GJ

“ *Gene and I will keep you and your family lifted in prayer during this difficult time.* ”



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**Gene and Ann Joyner** - December 14, 2018 at 05:31 PM

AJ

“ *My deepest condolences for my very dear friend. I will always treasure your friendship.* ”



*Beatrice Garrett*

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**Ann Joyner** - December 14, 2018 at 05:23 PM

IJ

“ *Dr. Lawrence and his wife, Queen, gave me my first ride back after Labor Day holiday in September 1979 to North Carolina Central University. I worked as a student at NIEHS in the Triangle and he was always there to instruct, encourage and influence. He was always eager to hear about my accomplishments and to that, I am eternally grateful. What a Pillar in the fields of education, religion, and career. What a great leader and mentor who had a vested interest in the well-being of others. I am confident Dr. Lawrence had a great reception in Glory!* ”

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**Ida Johnson** - December 14, 2018 at 04:36 PM

BB

*Well said, Ida. Well said.*

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**Brenda Scott Bowden** - December 15, 2018 at 09:38 AM

IJ

“ *Ida Johnson lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr.*



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**Ida Johnson** - December 14, 2018 at 02:47 PM

JA

“ *PEACE AND BLESSING TO THE FAMILY*



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**James Abdullah** - December 14, 2018 at 12:44 PM

IJ

“ *So saddened about the passing of Dr. William Lawrence. Praying for the family. Earth truly has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. May God continue to keep you in His loving care.*

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**Ida S. JognJoh** - December 14, 2018 at 11:27 AM

DF

“ *Dr. Lance & Mt. Olive Church Family lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr.*



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**Dr. Lance & Mt. Olive Church Family** - December 14, 2018 at 11:07 AM

CW

“ *Clarence H & Jackie P Williams lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr.*



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**Clarence H & Jackie P Williams** - December 14, 2018 at 11:04 AM

ES

“ *My deepest condolences to the family & friends of Dr. Lawrence; may you find comfort in God to lift your hearts and may your days be filled with loving memories of times shared through the years.*



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**Ebony Swinson** - December 14, 2018 at 10:25 AM

JJ

“ It is with profound grief that we learn that the inexorable laws of Fate has decreed that our good Brother, Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr., be taken from us and obliged to move through the Celestial Gate, to enter that bourn from which no traveler returns. The character of his life might be summed up in a few words: he was sincere, he was earnest, he was loyal, he was industrious, he was self-sacrificing. All of us in the Fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, have suffered a heavy loss. To the immediate family, God Bless You and keep you in this season of bereavement.



*Joseph King Davis, Jr.*

*19th Past Province Polemarch*

*Middle Eastern Province*

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**Joseph King Davis, Jr.** - December 13, 2018 at 10:56 PM

TS

“ The NCCU Counseling Faculty, Staff, & Students purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr..



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**The NCCU Counseling Faculty, Staff, & Students** - December 13, 2018 at 04:01 PM

EI

“ *May God's peace be with you. Cherish the memories you created with William. I will always remember him for his caring and loving nature. Please always remember that if you live for Christ, there will be a reunion one day.*

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**Elder Vashti Inman** - December 13, 2018 at 01:52 PM

CS

*May the God of peace continue to keep you through this difficult time. You and the family is in my prayers.*

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**Cornell Singletary** - December 14, 2018 at 01:33 AM

EI

“ *To the Lawrence Family, My condolences to each of you at the sad time. William was a wonderful man and she always had a beautiful personality. Thinking of you and your family at this time.*

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**Elder Vashti Inman-Woody** - December 13, 2018 at 01:43 PM

JD

“ *Dr. Lawrence gave students high expectations and challenged them to engage in researching solutions related to leadership and social problems. Despite his heavy workload, he found the time to serve on our dissertation committees; which helped us both to obtain doctoral degrees in the fields of education and business. Evetta and I will always remember Dr. Lawrence for his fatherly teaching style, his sense of humor and his passion to overcome against all odds. He was a great inspiration to so many other. Rest in Peace Dr. Lawrence - Mission Accomplished  
Dr. James V. Davis LTC (Ret) US Army  
Dr. Evetta Lawrence-Davis*



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**James V. Davis** - December 13, 2018 at 11:49 AM

BB

“ Dear Mrs. Lawrence, Lori and Willie,  
When people say "bless your heart" during periods of despair, the sentiment is well-placed. Such a loss can be so painful that you actually do want the Lord to reach in and massage your heart. This hurts! I'm so sorry and I don't have any words to share that will make the loss of your husband and dad hurt less. I want you to know that you and Mr. Lawrence mean so much to the Scott family. Mr. Lawrence and Mrs. Lawrence have embraced us through the years in good times and in devastating loss. You have been in our corner. When our Mother passed less than 2 years ago, Mr. Lawrence let us know he and his family were there for us - not to take the place of our parents but to "stand in the gap" as much as we would allow. And that he did! I know he did that for others, too, as evidenced by the tributes that are pouring in, but we believe we were special to him. He and your family are special to us. You are in our hearts. You are on my mind and in my prayers and I wish I could share with you on Saturday. Most of my family will be there to share in the outpouring of love for a prince of a man who left such a legacy. I will be in touch with you by and by. I love you, Mrs. Lawrence!



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**Brenda Scott Bowden** - December 13, 2018 at 11:40 AM

AB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with my dear Sorors Mrs. Queen, Lori and the rest of the entire Lawrence family. I pray for your strength and comfort during this difficult time.

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**Anissa Bledsoe** - December 13, 2018 at 11:14 AM

ML

“ Family you are in the prayers of Mozella Shipman Family. Praying for your strength during this difficult time.

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**Mary Shipman Lindsey** - December 12, 2018 at 08:58 PM

MW

“ *Deacon Michael C Williams*



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**Michael C Williams** - December 12, 2018 at 07:46 PM

BL

“ *Benny and Novella Lowery*



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**Benny and Novella Lowery** - December 12, 2018 at 06:29 PM

DS

“ *Deanna Stewart lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr.*



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**Deanna Stewart** - December 12, 2018 at 05:47 PM

DS

*A burning candle for a remarkable man. I will pray for the family for healing.*

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**Deanna Stewart** - December 12, 2018 at 05:49 PM

WT

“ *Wakefield And Sheila Thompson lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr.*



Wakefield and Sheila Thompson - December 12, 2018 at 01:11 PM

VP

“ *Velma Parker-Johnson and Otis lit a candle in memory Of Dr . William Lawrence Sr. Praying for your family may god give you comfort.*



velma Parker-Johnson - December 12, 2018 at 01:02 PM

FK

“ *FREDERICK KING And Regina King lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr.*



FREDERICK KING and Regina King - December 12, 2018 at 11:37 AM



“ *This Awesome man was bigger than life, he changed the lives of so many people. His presence said it all, a true example of a Kappa man..*

Virgil Reaves - December 12, 2018 at 11:22 AM

CB

“ *Cyntha W Brewley lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr.*



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**Cyntha W Brewley** - December 12, 2018 at 11:11 AM

LL

“ *Lisa Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr.*



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**Lisa Lawrence** - December 12, 2018 at 10:21 AM

BF

“ *Bradie And Lucy Frink lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr.*



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**Bradie and Lucy Frink** - December 11, 2018 at 10:19 PM

DH

“ *I was honored to speak at Dr. Lawrence’s retirement from NCCU. He was very inspirational during my matriculation and I am grateful to have been his student. Prayers to the family during this difficult time.*

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**Dana Hart-Raynor** - December 11, 2018 at 06:12 PM

DC

“ Lori, You and your family have been in my prayers since I heard of your dad’s home going. I pray that God’s peace will flood your heart.  
-Doug Chesnutt, Eastern Guilford Middle

Doug Chesnutt - December 11, 2018 at 12:35 PM

ER

“ E. Reese lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Wesley Lawrence, Sr.



E. Reese - December 11, 2018 at 11:17 AM

AS

“ I graduated from NCCU in 2004 with my Masters Degree in School Counseling. Dr. Lawrence was much more to me than a professor or mentor. He was my college father. He guided me not just in academics but in life. He always provided his shoulder for me to lean on, his ear to hear me share my successes and struggles. He was present for me during one of my greatest days, my wedding and was unwavering during my worse days, the death of my grandmother. I have always loved him and I will forever carry him in my heart. Thank you for just BEING. Rest in love 🥰  
Annie “Cummings” Shaw

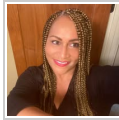
Annie Shaw - December 11, 2018 at 11:15 AM

EE

“Your wings were ready, but I wasn't. Thank you to my teacher, mentor, advisor, supporter, friend and "adopted Dad." I am a better person because of you. I will love and remember you always. Dr. Evetta Lawrence-Davis



**Evetta Lawrence-Davis, Ed.D.** - December 10, 2018 at 08:56 PM



*I am sending my condolences to Queen, Willie, Lori and the extended Lawrence family from Ralph, Vickie and Ronald. We are heart broken at the news of Dr. Lawrence's passing. He was a great and honorable man, who was a loyal and kind neighbor. In fact Bill and Queen were some of the best neighbors anyone could have!! I remember their generous help and support of my parents during their golden years on Wayne Circle. We love you and will miss you. RIH*

**Vickie Wiggins** - December 11, 2018 at 08:00 PM

LW

*Dr. Lawrence shared very helpful insight and was always caring. I am a beneficiary and am grateful for his touch in my life. He also had a sense of humor. My prayers to his family and community.*

**Lucy Wachira** - December 11, 2018 at 11:55 PM