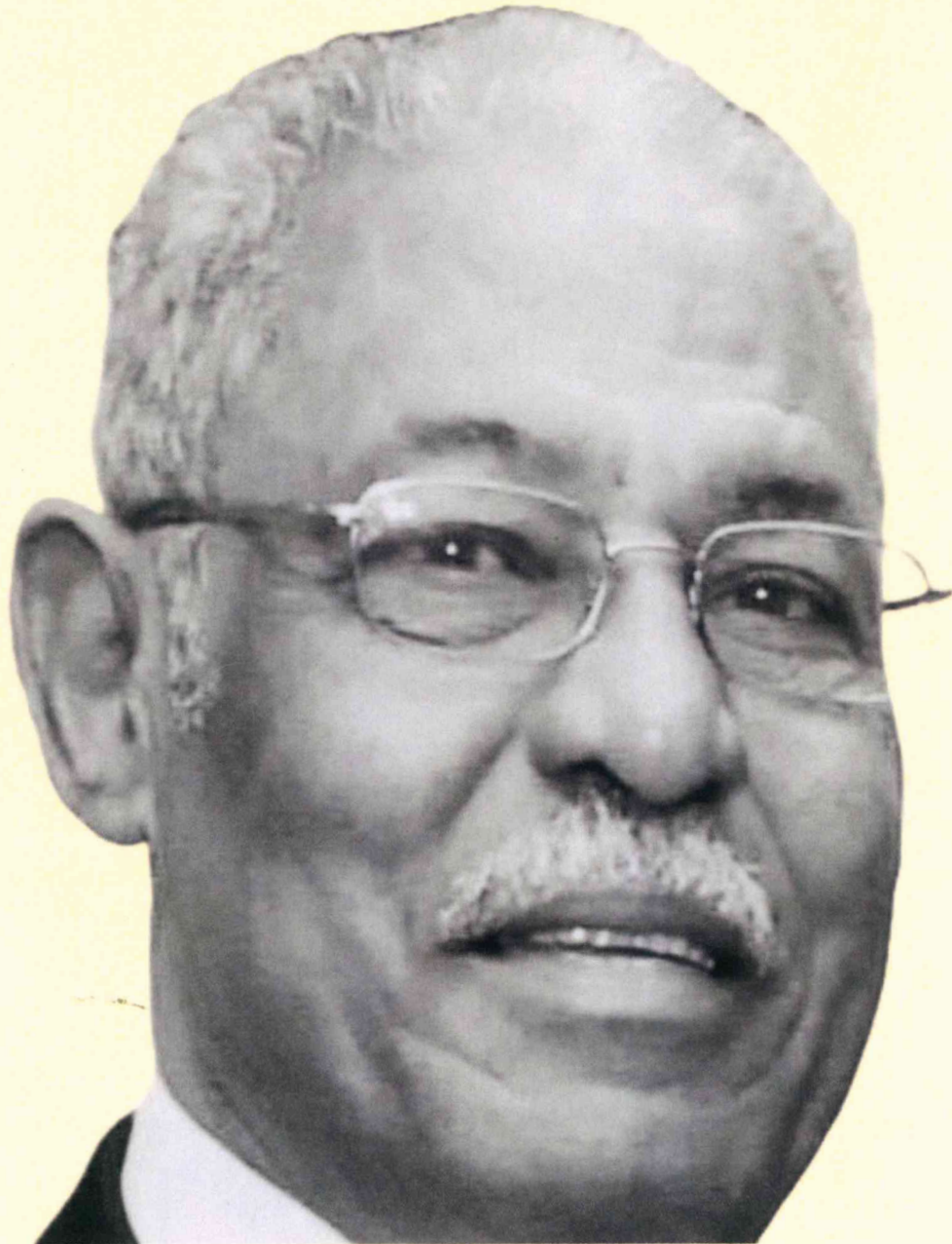


CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE
EARL STANCIL LUCAS



Saturday, April 13, 2024
3:00 PM

MURRAY BROTHERS CASCADE CHAPEL
1199 Utoy Springs Road, Southwest
Atlanta, Georgia 30331

OBITUARY

Earl Stancil Lucas, 86, passed away on March 31, 2024, in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Lucas, the son of William H. Lucas, Sr. and Lillie Bell Rushing Lucas, was born on January 1, 1938, in Renova, Mississippi. His family later relocated to Mound Bayou, Mississippi, an independent all-black community founded in 1887 by formerly enslaved people.

Mr. Lucas and his siblings attended Mound Bayou Consolidated High School where their studies included foreign languages and Black history, a rare curriculum for African American children in Mississippi in the 1950s. A brilliant young man, he graduated from high school in 1953 at 15. In 1957, he earned his B.A. in political science at Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

While at Dillard, he and other African American students refused to move from their seats on a city bus in defiance of segregation laws. This incident sparked his lifelong and steadfast commitment to civil rights.

After graduating from college, he returned to Mississippi. Under the sponsorship of the National Science Foundation, he took graduate courses at Beloit College in Wisconsin and DePauw University in Indiana. From 1958 to 1964, he taught math and science to elementary and junior high school students. However, his career ended after he (and a fellow teacher) led an effort demanding that African American teachers receive the same pay as their white counterparts.

In 1958, he met Marilee Lewis. A graduate of (then) Tuskegee Institute School of Nursing, Marilee returned to her home state of Mississippi after training in Brooklyn, New York. She promised her parents she would stay and work in Mound Bayou for one year. However, she never left. On September 13, 1959, they married at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Greenville, Mississippi. One year later, their priest, the Reverend John Nathan LaBauve (an active participant in the Civil Rights Movement), accompanied them to the Bolivar County, MS Courthouse to register to vote.

In 1965, Mr. Lucas became Executive Director of the Manpower Training Program for Systematic Training and Redevelopment, Incorporated® or STAR—a position he held until 1973. Supported by the Catholic Archdiocese in Mississippi, and funded by federal grants, STAR assisted poor and minority adult residents of Bolivar County in improving their employment skills and finding employment. When graduates from the program were denied jobs at a local assembly plant, this prompted a federal investigation; numerous STAR employees became the victims of threats and violence. Mr. Lucas was shot at and received death threats on numerous occasions.

In 1969, he was elected mayor of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. During his twenty-four-year tenure as mayor, with the backing of a supportive and resilient Board of Aldermen, he secured millions of dollars in federal

grants to improve the town's infrastructure. The funding paid for the pavement of streets, the construction of a water and sewer system, and the building of public facilities and housing. His success in procuring federal grants drew the ire of the white political power brokers in the state.

Mr. Lucas was a founding member of the Southern Conference of Black Mayors (SCBM) and held the office of treasurer from 1974 to 1980. He served as president of the Mississippi Conference of Black Mayors and as parliamentarian of the National Conference of Black Mayors (successor to the SCBM and predecessor to the African American Mayors Association).

Mr. Lucas was also a founding member of the Delta Foundation, a non-profit community development organization tasked with creating businesses and jobs for minority and economically disadvantaged families, businesses, and communities. He served on its Board of Directors from 1969 to 1983. In 1976, President Jimmy Carter appointed him chairman of the U.S. Public Health Service Corps Advisory Council. Throughout his life, he received numerous awards for leadership and outstanding service to organizations and communities. Mr. Lucas was preceded in death by his parents, William H. Lucas, Sr., Lillie Bell Rushing Lucas, and his brother, Willie B. Lucas, M.D. He is survived by his siblings Izona Blue, Kathleen L. Holmes (Arthur), William H. Lucas, Jr. (Jackie), Beatrice Hall Smith, Dorothy Lightfoot, Darrin Moore and Cynthia Moore Watson (Wayne).

He is also survived by his wife of 64 years, Marilee, and from their union—his children Eric Lucas, Sr., M.D. (Alvernica), Vicki Lucas, Carla Lucas Wiley, Esq. (Alan), Tina Lucas-Glass, M.D., Mark S. Lucas (Carlyne), Kendric E. Lucas (Venesha) and his oldest granddaughter, Kalia Lucas-Smith (Pierre), who he viewed as a daughter. Additionally, he is survived by his son, Jimmy E. Stokes, nineteen grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren, and a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Following in the footsteps of his older brother Willie B., and mentor Frederick H. Miller (the 3rd General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated ®), Mr. Lucas was initiated in the Epsilon Xi Lambda chapter in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, on May 17, 1974. His sons Eric D. Lucas, Sr., M.D. and Kendric E. Lucas; grandsons Cameron A. Wiley and Eric D. Lucas, Jr.; son-in-law Alan C. Wiley and cousins, immediate past Southern Region Vice-President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated ® Kelsey L. Rushing, Esq., and Maurice Lucas, Jr., are all members of his beloved fraternity.

After retirement, he enjoyed playing spades with his friends and family at the local Elk's Club. Let us emulate his generosity, courage, and compassionate spirit to honor his memory. May he rest in eternal peace, secure in the knowledge that his legacy will forever endure in the hearts of his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the vast network of friends and family who were fortunate enough to know him.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Rev. Desmond W. Drummer, *Pastor*
Rev. Mr. Leviticus Jelks, II, *Deacon*
John Beal, III, *Director of Music Ministry*
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Atlanta, Georgia

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Opening Song "Soon and Very Soon" (Crouch)
Greeting
Penitential Act
Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: *Revelation 13:14* Read by Byron Johnson
Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 27* "The Lord Is My Light" (Bouknight)
Second Reading: *Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12* Read by Ursula Holmes, Esq.
Gospel *Matthew 5:1-12*
Words of Remembrance

Children: Jimmy Stokes, Eric D. Lucas, M.D.; Vicki L. Lucas; Tina C. Lucas-Glass, M.D.

Grandchildren: Kalia C. Lucas

Acknowledgments: Kendric E. Lucas

Announcements: Carla Lucas Wiley, Esq.

Video Presentation/Tribute

Song of Praise "Total Praise" (Smallwood)

Homily

Universal Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

FINAL COMMENDATION

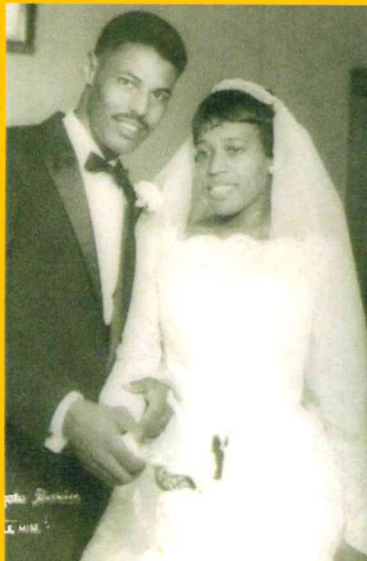
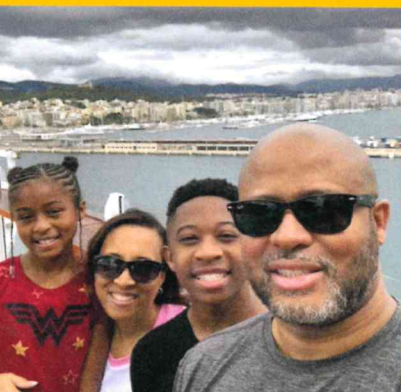
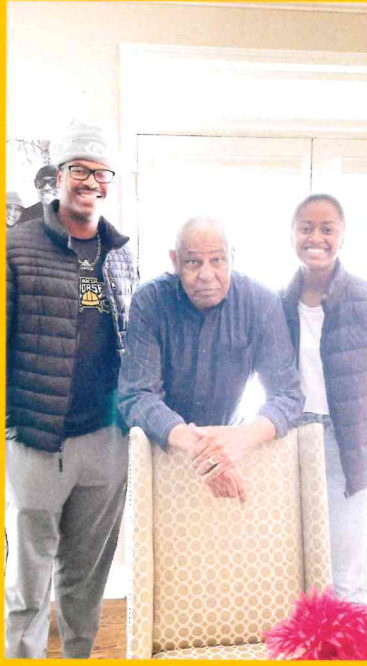
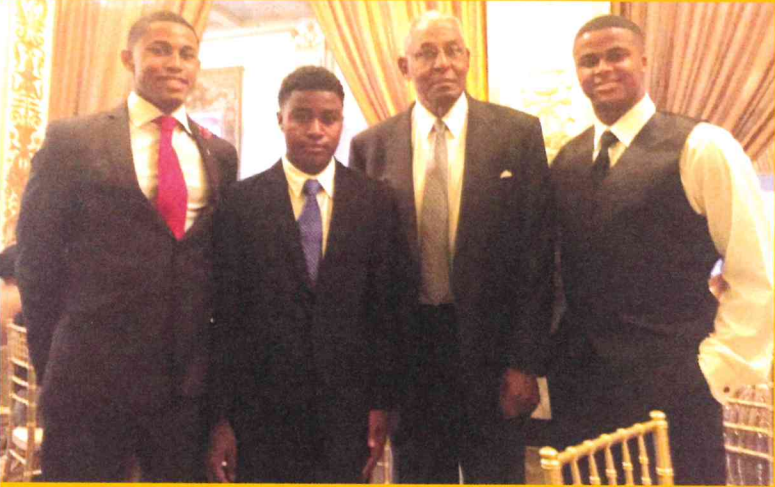
Song of Farewell "I Give Myself Away" (McDowell)

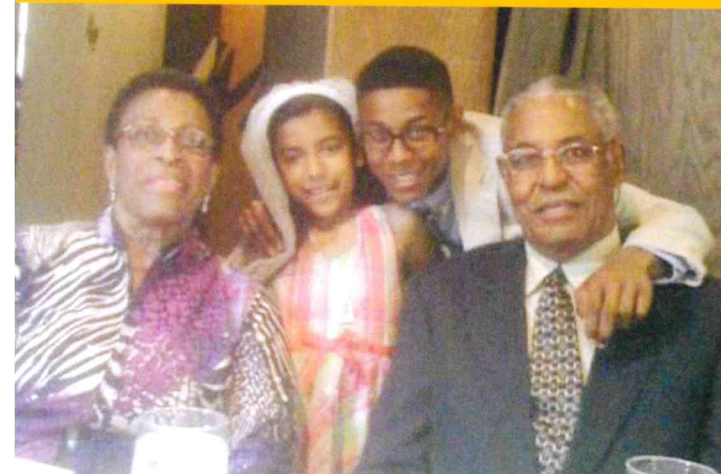
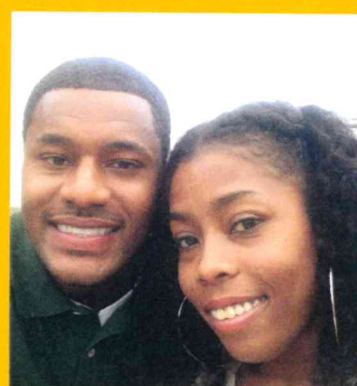
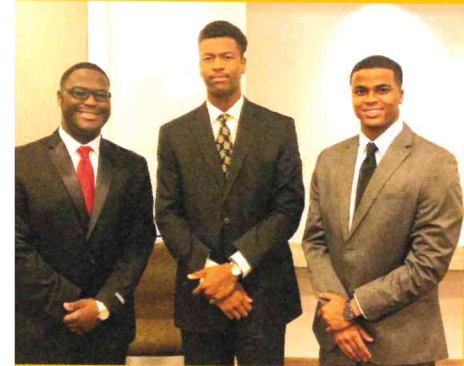
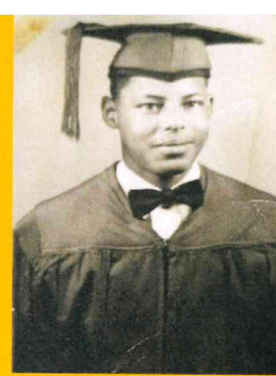
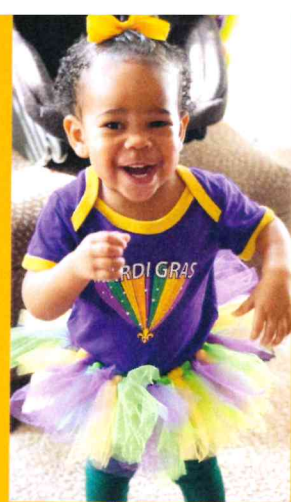
Prayer of Commendation

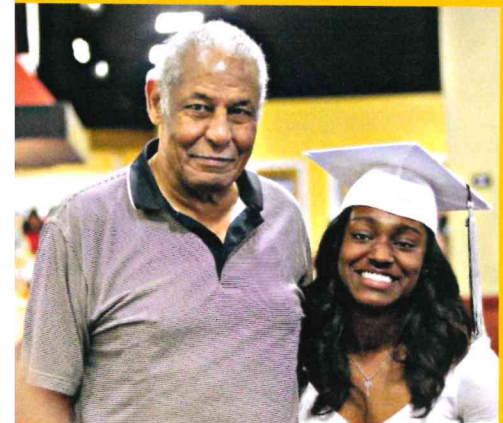
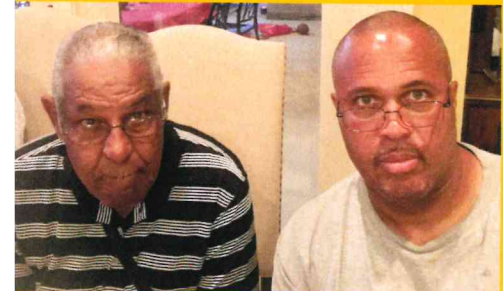
Closing Song "My God Is Awesome" (Jenkins)



★★★
**FANNIE LOU HAMER
FREEDOM AWARD
Luncheon**
HONOREES:
**EARL S. LUCAS
CHARLES EVERS**
Sponsor
THE *Coca-Cola* COMPANY







ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We, the family of Earl S. Lucas, extend thanks to everyone for your prayers and support during our time of loss. Your kindness, sympathy, and love have sustained us during these difficult times.

SPECIAL THANKS

Murray Brothers Funeral Home
1199 Utoy Springs Road, SW
Atlanta, GA 30331

RaGord Medical Services, Inc. (Hope, AR)
Airmed (Birmingham, AL)
Merit Health Wesley (Hattiesburg, MS)
Piedmont Hospital (Atlanta, GA)

Event Hall Cascade
1180 Fairburn Road, SW
Atlanta, GA 30331

Cleveland Dollison Catering

Jessica Clark, MLIS Assistant Curator
Historical Manuscripts Special Collections
The University of Southern Mississippi

Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated ®, with special acknowledgment to the members of the Kappa Omega chapter in Atlanta, GA, and the Chi Mu Omega chapter in Mound Bayou, MS

Members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated ®, with special acknowledgment to the members of the Eta Lambda chapter in Atlanta, GA, and the Epsilon Xi Lambda chapter in Mound Bayou, MS

The Lucas and Lewis family members from Georgia, Tennessee, Missouri, and Mississippi.

Friends and neighbors in Mound Bayou and Cleveland, MS,
as well as Atlanta, Vinings, Marietta, and Woodstock, GA

Co-workers at Home Depot, Delta Airlines, and the Democratic Party of Georgia

Daisy Day Florist
8 N Clarendon Ave
Avondale Estates, GA 30002

Delta Transportation Service
James Bradford

Co-workers and patients at Alpha Eye Associate, Inc.

Reverend Desmond Drummer and the Music Ministry of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church



MURRAY
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404-349-3000

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