



The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen

November 18, 1951 - March 21, 2023

“Thou my everlasting Portion, more than friend or life to me, all along my pilgrim journey, Savior, let me walk with Thee.”

Roy Cornelius “Bill” Lewellen, Jr., sometimes known as “Bill Bo,” was born on November 18, 1951 to the union of Roy Cornelius Lewellen, Sr. and Minnie Ethel Brewer Lewellen. As a precocious child, his fondness memories were of his first teacher Mrs. Beluah O’Neal Matthews who carried him at the age of four to the historic C. B. Dansby School, an infamous Texas school know for educating African-American students during segregation years.

At a young age, Bill Bo accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior and joined the Paradise Missionary Baptist Church in Marianna, AR. In later years, he would unite with the Mount Calvary M.B. Church under the leadership of Pastor Robert Ousley, where he faithfully continued to serve as Trustee under the present pastoral leadership of Dr. Ronald Broussard, Sr.

Roy C. Lewellen graduated in May 1968 from Anna Strong High School in Marianna, and in September 1968, Lewellen enrolled at AM&N College, now known as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB). While attending UAPB, he determinedly met his wife Doris Ann Bradley Lewellen when he intentionally sat in her seat in English 101 and repeatedly tried to take her pencil as playfully ways to gain Doris’ attention. This collegial encounter began a 48-year romance. This fun-loving romance led to their marriage on April 12, 1973, and they remained united as one until Doris departed this life in September 2016.

“And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” Psalm 1:3

Roy Lewellen received his Bachelor’s from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Following graduation, he was employed by the Department of Human Services in Marianna, AR., where his purpose-driven mission in life for the concern of people in

Arkansas and in surrounding communities were planted and nurtured. His amicable character traits of humility, courage, advocacy, and service would lead him to enter into the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law where he received his Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree (J.D.). As one of two Black lawyers in Lee County, Bill was a strong advocate and attorney for equal representation and treatment in his community, served as a Marianna City Councilman before his election to the Arkansas Senate in 1990, and later served until his transition as the attorney for the Marianna City Council. He served for ten years in the Senate and was the second Black person to serve in the Arkansas Senate in the twentieth century. Senator Bill Lewellen was the sponsor of Act 912 of 1991 that created the Arkansas Minority Health Commission.

After his first session in the Senate in 1992, Lewellen served as an attorney for the Lake View School District in their historic fight for an equitable and efficient public school system where school funding systems were constitutional. Bill also served on the Senate Insurance and Commerce Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee, was Senate Co-chair of the Joint Legislative Facilities Committee, Vice Chair of the Senate Rules Committee and a member of the Joint Budget Committee and the Joint Performance Review Committee.

After serving ten years in the Arkansas Senate, Bill continued to advocate for small rural school districts facing consolidation and inequitable treatment. He fought to represent his clients and to remedy injustice whenever he could. His support of dignity for all people led him to receive numerous local, state and national recognitions throughout his life.

“Not for ease or worldly pleasures, nor for fame my prayers shall be; gladly will I toil and suffer, only let me walk with Thee.”

Bill loved to cook and readily prepared various cuisines. His greatest joy was to have family and friends over to partake of his creative cuisines prepared just for them from Chef Bill. He was a member of the Viking Bi Fidelity Society, Incorporated and the Theta Tau Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He was inducted in the UAPB Alumni Hall of Fame in 2016 and Moton Strong Lee Hall of Fame Marianna, AR in 2017.

“Lead me through the vale of shadows, bear me o’er life’s fitful sea; then the gate of life eternal may I enter, Lord, with Thee.”

On Tuesday morning, March 21, 2023, Bill transitioned from this life at Baptist East Hospital in Memphis, TN.

He was preceded in death by his wife Doris Lewellen, his parents and sister Marvie Kay Lewellen and brother-in-law Johnny Qualls. To continue his legacy Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen leaves to cherish his life his devoted daughters Adrienne and Chastity Lewellen, his sons Roy III, Michael, Marcus, Marco, and Marshall Lewellen, his grandchildren Morgan, Madison and Calvin Walton, Jr, Aniya Holmes, Kennedi and Zaniya Lewellen, his sisters, Annette (Joseph) Pace and Earnestine Qualls and his brother Anthony (Shelia) Lewellen. He will also be remembered by his uncle, JB (Ophelia) Brewer, his aunts Mrs. Velma Brewer, Mrs. Ella Brewer of Marianna, AR, Mrs. Wilhelmina Epps- Lewellen of Little Rock, AR, and Mrs. Ann Lewellen Lewis of Georgia, god children Kristian Fayeth "Gert" and Kyuntae "Keizer" Sanders and his bonus daughters Sonya Savage and Evonda Williams. His nieces, nephews, cousins and friends will always recall the life and legacy of Bill Lewellen.

FOOTPRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME

Cemetery Details

Springlake Cemetery

Phillips County Road 222
Lexa , AR 72355

Previous Events

Lay in Honor

APR 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Lee High School Auditorium
523 Forest Ave
Marianna , AR 72360

We recommend you contact our local florist for proper delivery: Debbie's Flowers (870) 633-2225, ROYAL DESIGN FLOWERS (870) 735-2000, Robin Hood's Florist (870) 295-5450, or Secret Garden's (870) 295-4619

Community Wide Celebration of Former Senator Attorney Roy C. Bill Lewellen

APR 8. 12:00 PM (CT)

Lee High School Auditorium
523 Forest Ave
Marianna , AR 72360

Please forward all Resolutions and Acknowledgements to either mjkimble@yahoo.com, PO BOX 484, Forrest City, AR, 72335, or 1900 South Washington Street, Forrest City, AR by Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 12:00 PM (CST) Attention: Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen

Tribute Wall



“ *Miles J. Kimble Mortuary & Cremation created a Webcast in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen*



Miles J. Kimble Mortuary & Cremation - April 08, 2023 at 01:20 PM

RB

“ *Cousin Billbo will always be remembered for his love of the Lewellen Family, his civic mindedness, his legal adeptness, his humor, and most importantly for his love of his wife and his children. Faith, hope, and charity (love) but the greatest of these is love. Cousin Billbo will truly be missed!*
Love,
Charles Burse and Family

Robyn Bursr - April 07, 2023 at 10:42 PM

VE

“ *Our dear cousin "Bill Bo" will be missed tremendously! He was always welcoming and loving. A true gem. A great father, activist, attorney, friend, leader, chef and plus more. We love you, cousin. - Horace aka June (Pete), Laura, Veda and The Lewellen Hargraves Family*

Veda - April 07, 2023 at 04:16 PM

MJ

“ *Mikel Jordan lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen*



Mikel Jordan - April 07, 2023 at 09:59 AM

MB

“ Mable B. purchased a sympathy card for the family of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen.



Mable B. - April 06, 2023 at 06:05 PM

MT

“ Mary K Timmons lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Mary K Timmons - April 05, 2023 at 11:32 AM

MT

"GOD BLESS and MUCH LOVE" to the Family.

Mary K Timmons - April 05, 2023 at 11:32 AM

DJ

I was saddened to hear of Bill's passing. My family knew this family very well. My late mother worked with Doris for nearly 40 years at school in Marianna. Much love and prayers for the family. Dan Johnson and Family.

Dan Johnson - May 29, 2023 at 09:51 AM

HN

“ In Memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen
From : The Nicholson Family. We Love You! Rest in peace, Bill.



Helen Nicholson - April 04, 2023 at 02:04 PM

SB

“ Such an honor to know and work with him. Such a giant personality! Prayers for his family.



Shannon Bonds - April 04, 2023 at 01:00 PM

RR

“ Rita Rogers lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Rita Rogers - April 03, 2023 at 04:12 PM

HP

“ Heather Parker and Family

Bill was my family's attorney but he was more of a family member to us. We will miss you Bill. I had called his phone several times in the past few months just to check in and see how he was doing. I wish I could have talked to him and told him how much he meant to us. Until we see you again. Fly high my friend.

Heather Parker - April 03, 2023 at 11:53 AM

RF

“ Our prayers and condolences to the Lewellen family. We will forever be thankful for his leadership and for his legacy. RIP Senator!
The Lindsey and Favors Family,
Regina Favors

Regina Favors - April 02, 2023 at 12:20 PM

DF

“ Debra Hargraves Ford lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Debra Hargraves Ford - April 01, 2023 at 02:12 AM

RW

“ Reginald Walker lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Reginald Walker - March 30, 2023 at 08:40 AM

KC

“ KAREN C lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



KAREN C - March 28, 2023 at 09:08 PM

JS

“ Sen. Lewellyn inspired me to fulfill my dreams. He was a loving husband, father, attorney. He will be missed. My prayers are with Adrienne, Roy, and family. Rest in Power.



John Savage - March 27, 2023 at 10:46 PM

DB

“ Dorothy Bowers lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Dorothy Bowers - March 27, 2023 at 08:51 PM

DB

Prayers for Brewers and Lewellen Family. My deepest sympathy and Condolences.

Dorothy Bowers - March 27, 2023 at 08:54 PM

RW

“ Rene' Ward lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Rene' Ward - March 27, 2023 at 12:47 PM

DF

“ Debra Pearson Foreman lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Debra Pearson Foreman - March 27, 2023 at 12:25 AM

JJ

“ Jo Ann Jones lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Jo Ann Jones - March 26, 2023 at 07:48 PM

DD

“ Delois Daniels lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Delois Daniels - March 26, 2023 at 08:43 AM

DD

A Giant of a man in our State and Community. May you rest in peace. Prayers for the family. 🙏🙏🙏❤️❤️

Delois Daniels - March 26, 2023 at 08:48 AM

BH

“ BARBARA ANN HOOKS lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



BARBARA ANN HOOKS - March 25, 2023 at 11:23 PM

BH

REMEMBERING A FELLOW CLASS MATE OF 1968 MAY GOD BLESS THE FAMILY PRAYING FOR YOU ALL FOR STRENGTH DURING THIS TIME OF SORROW.BILL WAS A WONDERFUL PERSON, HE WILL NOT SUFFER ANYMORE GOD HAS HIM NOW.

BARBARA ANN HOOKS - March 25, 2023 at 11:31 PM

AM

“ Rest in peace.
You were a light in so many ways for the people of rural
Arkansas. Ailene Morisy



Ailene Morisy - March 25, 2023 at 08:48 PM

CE

“ Carolyn Westbrook El-jihad lit a candle in memory of The
Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Carolyn Westbrook El-jihad - March 25, 2023 at 06:31 PM

JH

“ James & Mable Harris lit a candle in memory of The
Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



James & Mable Harris - March 25, 2023 at 12:53 PM

MB

“ Condolences to the Lewellen family.
Melanie's Hair Studio Hornlake

Melanie Brown - March 25, 2023 at 09:13 AM



“ Praying for you.
Leon and Arlenda Flannel



Arlenda Flannel - March 25, 2023 at 08:38 AM



“ From the Burnett family. Love and condolences.



Arlenda Flannel - March 25, 2023 at 08:37 AM

DC

“ Rest in peace Uncle Bill.



Daniel Cruz - March 25, 2023 at 01:41 AM

BM

“ Attorney Lewellen ,his wife and I were concerned by our two children Roy and Adrienne. I remember how the three of us would laugh about Roy and my daughter Atonya when they were classmates in kindergarten. Roy loved him some Atonya and would always try to protect her from everyone. Adrienne and my son Antonio were friends and classmates as well. To Roy, Adrienne and the grandchildren try to find strength in your time of sorrow and always know that you are loved and have so many people surrounding you all. We send our condolences and prayers to you all and your family. Ms Bernice Marshall, Antonio Marshall and Atonya Marshall Rosario. ❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏

Bernice Marshall - March 24, 2023 at 11:22 PM

BM

Correction, we were connected by our two children.

Bernice Marshall - March 24, 2023 at 11:24 PM

JD

Although belated, I am expressing my condolences to to the family of my cousin, the Honorable Roy C. Lewellyn, Attorney at Law and the first Black Arkansas State Senator. Roy was a cousin to me on my father’s side of my family—the Sanders family—in which we had an Aunt Frances who was a mutual family member. Roy knew my husband (Minor Daniels) and me, Jessie Daniels. We conducted business with Roy and attended a social event at his residence. We also discussed possible entertainment events in South Africa. Losing my husband in 2008, I truly understand your loss and empathize and sympathize with and for you. To learn more about Minor and me, look our names on the Internet. Also, you can call me at (502) 262-3052.

Jessie Daniels - April 01, 2023 at 03:28 PM

LL

“ *Condolences and Prayers to the family!*



Leigh Lewis - March 24, 2023 at 11:22 PM

EO

“ *Earnest Stene Oliver lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen*



Earnest Stene Oliver - March 24, 2023 at 10:38 PM

MH

“ *When his beloved wife Doris, a quiet, loving and brilliant lady passed away; kind people were bringing KFC. I think I asked, 'if I could cook a whole meal there in their kitchen. No problem. He handed me the okra! I brought the other menu ingredients in a big wicker basket which tickled his daughter! The Lord helped me to cook a whole meal and set the table!*
They sat at the table, I went into the very nearby den. However, I got some startling news over the phone and unknowingly' took it out on my plate, making big noses with my spoon! He came out of the kitchen And Said "HOBBS, what's wrong, why you clicking on your plate so hard" ?

Minister Bonita Rosa Hobbs-S.L. - March 24, 2023 at 10:03 PM

BM

My condolences and prayers for the family! We were connected by our two children. His son Roy and my daughter were classmates in kindergarten. He loved him so Atonya and would try to protect her from everyone. The three of us would always laugh about the two of them. His daughter Adrienne and my son Antonio were classmates as well. Roy and Adrienne try to be strong in all of your sorrows and know that you are loved by so many. We love you both! Ms Bernice Marshall, Antonio Marshall and Atonya Marshall Rosario ❤️❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏

Bernice Marshall - March 24, 2023 at 10:54 PM

ST

“ *I remember Attorney Bill Lewellen as a teenager growing up in Lee County. He was one the first black Attorney's I knew. May he RIP..*

Shadrach Turner - March 24, 2023 at 08:29 PM

EH

“ Edna Hargraves lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Edna Hargraves - March 24, 2023 at 06:52 PM

EH

“ Well, "Boss", I see you've moved up a little bit higher. May God's celestial court welcome you in. We're gonna miss ya. Until we meet again...

Edna Hargraves - March 24, 2023 at 06:51 PM

UH

“ Rest in the arms of our Lord - Peace my brother. Your cuz , "Preacher"



Ulysses Hargraves - March 24, 2023 at 06:40 PM

MJ

“ Marilyn Jackson lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Marilyn Jackson - March 24, 2023 at 06:31 PM

DF

“ Debra Hargraves Ford lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Debra Hargraves Ford - March 24, 2023 at 05:32 PM



“ Rest in Heaven brother Bilbo, I will never forget the great times we had growing up together, you are loved by many



Ricky Green - March 24, 2023 at 03:14 PM

MH

“ Mary Smith Hambrick lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Mary Smith Hambrick - March 24, 2023 at 01:45 PM

DC

“ Thanks for being a part of my life, when you helped me oldest son

DrCharles Coleman - March 24, 2023 at 01:00 PM

PW

“ Peggy Robinson Wright lit a candle in memory of The Honorable Attorney Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen



Peggy Robinson Wright - March 24, 2023 at 12:58 PM

RW

Condolences and prayers to the family!!!

Rosie Winston - April 04, 2023 at 01:02 PM

HA

My condolences to the family and friends. Bill was our family attorney. We will miss you dearly, Bill, from The Nicholson Family

Helen Nicholson Amar - April 04, 2023 at 01:47 PM