



## Alex Isaac Lewis III

April 1, 2020

Alex Isaac Lewis, III, an accomplished and admired native New Orleanian, was called home to be with our Heavenly Father on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at the age of 75 due to Corona Virus (Covid-19) related complications. He was a distinguished graduate of Booker T. Washington HS Class of 1962. During an illustrious career spanning five decades, Alex worked and excelled in the government, hospitality, and energy sectors. His most notable achievements occurred during his tenures as Personnel Director for the Marriott Hotel, 1984 Louisiana World Exposition, Louisiana Superdome, and the Sheraton Hotel. He was most recently contracted with Liberty Bank & Trust Company.

Alex always strived to be an inspiration of hope and encouragement for those in need. Whether friend, foe, neighbor, colleague, or stranger, he would often provide a helping hand, shoulder to lean on, words of comfort, and/or a listening ear. Actively involved in the cultural, political, educational, and spiritual aspects of the city he so loved, Alex was a trailblazer and strong advocate for equality, fair pay, upward mobility, and human rights. He served as a respected mentor, advisor, and confidant to many businesses, organizations and individual New Orleanians regardless of race, age, gender, religion, political affiliation, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. Anyone who had aspirational goals and was willing to put in the work necessary to achieve them, whether it be climbing the corporate ladder or becoming a force for positive change in the community, Alex was usually there to assist even when on many occasions, he neither requested, expected, or accepted any monetary compensation. He served on various boards in the New Orleans Area, most notably the French Quarter Festivals, Inc., Volunteers of America, Urban League of Louisiana, New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce and the Sewerage and Water Board. However, Alex never hesitated to roll up his sleeves to do cleaning, lifting, serving, assembling, disassembling or any type of labor, menial or otherwise, that was essential to the success of an event or cause in which he participated. He faithfully and humbly demonstrated a consistent willingness to perform these tasks and others during the many years that he served as a volunteer for the Louis Armstrong and French Quarter Festivals.

Alex was also a musician (clarinet) spending time with the New Orleans Concert Band. He

was a member of the Ashé Contemporary Arts Centre as well as an actor/director dabbling in theatre at the Chakula Cha Chua Studios and Anthony Bean Community Theatre. More than the many public accolades he has received, or having his image included in the impressive mural of notable alumni at the new Booker T. Washington HS, or seeing his picture adorning the walls of restaurants in the Big Easy as a celebrity customer, it will certainly be his love for life, his family, his heritage, the Fine Arts, and above all his deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior that will serve as the most enduring legacy of Alex Isaac Lewis, III.

Alex is predeceased by his beloved wife Mary Louise Baham Lewis, parents Alex Isaac, Sr. and Mary Louise Lewis and siblings, Lorena Harris and Eric Lewis. He is the extremely proud father of Alex, IV (Kasia), Carlton, Christopher (Jennifer) and Jason (Kiley). He will always be the adoring PawPaw to grandchildren Angelique Stewart (Lejon), Alesia Farve (Lawrence), Candace Lewis, Alex M. Lewis (Sarita), Caitlyn Lewis, Alaina Watson (John), Lauren Dillon, Cori Lewis, Lawrence Dillon, Zoe Lewis, Kennedy Green, Taylor Lewis, Brandon Lewis and to great-grandchildren Lejon Stewart Jr, Lillian Garza, LeDonovan Stewart, Leila Holmes, Stephan Anderson, Serenity Lewis, Sabriah Lewis, and Lawrence Farve III. No words can describe the love he had for his siblings Ronald Lewis, Victoria Lewis, Mary Lewis Shanks, Annie Bell Robertson (Alvin) and Michael Lewis (Ericka). He is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends. He will be well-remembered by the officers and members of Cornerstone United Methodist Church and Bethany United Methodist Church, as well as the staff of Liberty Bank and Trust Company, New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce, and D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home. Alex's family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to Dr. Reginelli and the dedicated men and women of the intensive care unit at Touro Infirmiry Hospital for their courageous and tireless work on his behalf.

During this time of COVID-19, formal funeral services are not feasible as all large gatherings of people are expressly prohibited or ill-advised. Therefore, The Family of Alex, in conjunction with D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home and Cornerstone United Methodist Church, will announce a date and time regarding a memorial service to celebrate the abundant life and legacy of Alex Isaac Lewis, III when the current situation improves. Family and friends are encouraged to leave prayers, words of comfort, contact information or loving memories. Arrangements by D. W. Rhodes Funeral Home 7411 Chef Menteur Highway.

# Comments

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“ Alex was one of the 1st people I met when my ex-husband, Alan D'Zurilla and our family were transferred from California to New Orleans about 30 years ago. We were living in The Sheraton New Orleans with 3 young sons and a baby girl. Alex introduced us to people and helped us to find a wonderful real estate agent. He was a huge help as the family got adjusted to our new city. While I don't live in NOLA any more, it is still my favorite city and a large part of that is because of Alex. I have never forgotten him and send my sincere condolences to his family. He was an exceptional person



**Karen Kelley** - May 04, 2020 at 04:37 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family at this most difficult time. I served with Alex for many years on the board of - and as an officer of - French Quarter Festivals, Inc. He was a kind man who believed in treating all people fairly. I was impressed at how easily he could get to the root of a problem and explain things so logically that you couldn't help but agree with him. It was great seeing him at the gala in early March. I pray that you take comfort in the fact that Alex was loved and respected by so many and that, although God's plan may not be revealed to us during our lifetime, it will be abundantly clear when we move on from this life on earth.

Gregory Hoffman

**Gregory Hoffman** - May 03, 2020 at 08:06 AM

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“ Where do I begin?! There aren't enough words to express what he meant to me and how special he was to everyone who was blessed to meet him. My Pawpaw never met a stranger, he could strike up a good conversation with anyone, his heart was larger than his beloved New Orleans.

We had so many memories in my 34 years that I can't pinpoint just one, or two, or even a handful. He loved without reservations, his intentions were always with purpose, and his legacy was fulfilled. Although we no longer have him here in body, he surrounds us in spirit with his forever love, my Mimi. In the midst of our great sorrow, I know that he is at peace.

Pawpaw, I'll miss your "Why Hello There", and whenever I would ask how you were, you would say "Not too shabby". I'll miss how you could deconstruct any menu item and make it "Mr Lewis style", I'll miss your smile and your laughter, I just miss you.

-With Love, Forever and Always

Alesia



Alesia Farve - April 24, 2020 at 11:00 PM

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“ As a Board member of French Quarter Festivals, and past President, I had the honor of working with Alex. He was always graceful and a guiding force. During my time as President I had to navigate a troublesome issue. Alex stepped up and assisted myself and the staff during this time. His knowledge, level head, excellent communication and ability to comfort was instrumental in guiding us to a positive place. I will always remember his unwavering support and will be forever grateful for his assistance during this time at Fest.

Errin Bellan

Errin Bellan - April 22, 2020 at 11:23 AM

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“ Alex Lewis, mentor, confidante and special friend, I miss you so much already. Your encouragement, prayers and listening ear, have been greatly appreciated. Rest in peace, my friend.

~Geraldyn

Geraldyn - April 21, 2020 at 04:28 PM





“ As we sit back and think about our PawPaw, memories start to flood in. It's hard to individually pinpoint a fondest memory of him, that we each have, because they were all grand, but we think we were able to accomplish the task. PawPaw was just that kind of grandfather, every moment was a memorable experience.

For our daughters, Serenity and Sabriah, their fondest memories of their PawPaw was that he always gave memorable and unforgettable hugs, the kind that you can feel for a lifetime and always brought a smile to their faces. No matter how busy he may have been, he always found the time to sit down, play board games and do puzzles. All the while sharing valuable pieces of knowledge with them.

The first time I met PawPaw, my husband Alex and I had just welcomed our youngest Sabriah into the world. Coming down to New Orleans, I was worried how his family, specifically his grandparents would accept that I had another child prior to meeting their grandson. My worries were for naught, Mimi, PawPaw and so many other members in the Lewis family, welcomed us with open arms without hesitation. That first night, we drove in around 1am to New Orleans to their residents on Good Drive. I remember he always gave a memorable hug with a sigh of comfort. He made sure to have food upon arrival (catfish, shrimp and french fries). Another fond memory with PawPaw was some of our memorable times spent at restaurants, because he always had a recommendation wherever we went. Our last memory was back in January when we went back to New Orleans. On our last night, we all went to Cafe De Monde for a late order of coffee and beignets. As we all sat around the table, I noticed that PawPaw was embracing the moment, looking upon his family, his legacy with a smile on his face. The vision of him sitting back, enjoying and watching his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren bonding and laughing, will be a sight that I will cherish forever because I could feel his pride for the Lewis Family.

As his Grandson, as others, I have many memories of him. He taught me a lot whether it was directly or indirectly. He set the benchmark for the Lewis boys of how a Man should be. As I reminisce, I am grateful for a lot of memories and moments we spent together. I'll never forget the time when I was flying back to Poland and he flew with me to Chicago to keep me company and also to ensure that I made my last flight safely. During that layover in Chicago, we must have played countless crossword puzzles that Mimi had gotten us, before I boarded my flight. If I had to pick from the list of fondest memories of PawPaw, the most important one to me, was his voice. If patience had a sound, it would have been PawPaw's voice. To this day, when life gets hard or just when I get tired, his voice always comes to me with all the advice he had given me over the years and somehow I always push through. Hearing him speak, is my fondest memory because to me it meant that no matter what was going on, it would always work out.

PawPaw, even though you no longer walk amongst us, we know you and Mimi are looking down on us all with pride. We love you PawPaw, hold Mimi a little tighter from us all.

Always,

Your Great-Grandchildren and Grandchildren,

Sabriah, Serenity, Sarita & Alex



**Alex Lewis** - April 19, 2020 at 09:59 PM

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“ Alex, Carlton, Chris, Jason and all of your family, I send this note with a heavy heart. I was so saddened when I received the word of my beloved Al's passing. He leaves me with so many great memories from working together and being a great comrade in the hotel business and great friend forever. We truly had a "mutual admiration" society. He and Mary are smiling down on us today and always.

Always,  
Kay Cabibi

**Kay Cabibi** - April 14, 2020 at 03:32 PM

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“ My prayers for the family. Your father was a great friend and human being. Always helping others. I will truly miss him. God's peace and love be with the family during this time.  
Wilbert Oscar Solomon Jr  
High Voltage Band Member(Saxophonist)

**Wilbert Oscar Solomon Jr** - April 14, 2020 at 01:37 PM

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“ Alex was a great man who contributed immensely to the City of New Orleans. His service to the community was unparalleled in his unselfishness of giving without any expectations or desires of being rewarded. Yes, he was great, but humble with an infectious smile and a persona that invited anyone and everyone regardless of their station to pull up a chair and engage in conversation.

Alex was a devoted family man who adored his late wife, Mary, and their family dearly. I will miss our lunch meetings over the many years.

You now have your wings to join Mary in Heaven.

Your friend,  
Charles Kennedy, Jr.

**Charles Kennedy, Jr.** - April 13, 2020 at 08:26 PM

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“ My condolences to the family. Alex will be missed at Cornerstone UMC. He was dedicated to serving the community. May you find peace in God's comforting love.

Avis James

**Avis James** - April 11, 2020 at 03:08 PM

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“ Alex was always the calm in the storm. I will truly miss my friend and his wisdom, insight and guidance when all around me seemed to be swirling out of control.



**Deborah Moench** - April 11, 2020 at 07:16 AM

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“ Mr. Lewis and his wife were the best tour guide couple and New Orleans advocates the city could ask for. They knew the city and its history. I had the pleasure in late 1990's or early 2000's to visit New Orleans and get the royal tour. What a great time I had and we ate at a great steak dinner at a Black Owned Cafe they know. I will miss not having Mr. Lewis as my connection in New Orleans. May Mr. and Mrs. Lewis rest well. Until we meet again.

Condolences to the family and especially, Alex III and Little Alex. We met at the U.S Embassy in Warsaw, Poland in 1992 when he and Little Alex, My now ex-wife - Jo, my son Christopher and I were almost all of the Black people (10) in a country of 55 million. We were always on parade. I pray for peace of mind and spirits for all of you.

Thaddeus "Toby" Turner

Thaddeus Turner - April 10, 2020 at 05:19 PM

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“ To the family of Alex Lewis, our hearts are hurting but our prayers will continue to be with the family in the days ahead knowing that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. We know where Alex is and he has joined his sweet wife Mary Louise. May God forever bless you and keep you in His care.

Issac & Lynn White  
Long time friends and neighbors of the family!

Issac & Lynn White - April 10, 2020 at 11:57 AM

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“ I had the privilege of working with Alex at both the RSD and when he helped us out at NOCCA. He was an incredible and giving human. One of my favorites. Was a measure of compassion and humanity. It showed most in the facts that he loved all children, art, family, and was a true friend. World would be a better place with more people like Alex. New Orleans is better for you having been a part of her and you are missed.

-Kyle Wedberg  
Pres/CEO NOCCA

Kyle Wedberg - April 08, 2020 at 04:39 PM

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“ Our prayers and sympathy to. Alex Lewis III family. He was truly a special person who enriched the lives of many people. I remember an enjoyable fishing trip that I along with several family members made with Alex. Darnell and Kathleen Green

**Darnell and Kathleen GREEN** - April 08, 2020 at 02:37 PM

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“ Alex was in the first class of students that I taught at Booker T. Washington--1961-1962. I was a beginning teacher--French and Spanish. Alex always had the manner of an executive. He was polite, assured and knowledgeable. He and his classmates made teaching fulfilling. We teachers knew that Alex and his classmates would make the world a better place.

**Elaine Adams** - April 07, 2020 at 01:19 PM

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“ Mr. Alex and Ms. Mary were our New Orleans family. As kids Ms. Mary was one of our second mamas who took us kids in and let us grow up with Jason. As I grew up Mr. Alex was a mentor who helped me transition to the profession world and learn to be an adult. I have many fond memories of Mr. Alex and the Lewis family. He is a warm, generous and loving presence that will be missed.

**Diana Johnson** - April 07, 2020 at 08:38 AM

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“ Our condolences to the family. Our prayers are with you.

**Alvin Jackson** - April 06, 2020 at 07:08 AM



“ May God's peace and mercy be with the Lewis family.

Virdis Mackel Sr  
Sheraton hotel

**Virdis Mackel Sr** - April 07, 2020 at 11:22 PM

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“ Alex and I held each other up when when Mary and Connie were going through radiation together. I hold you all in my heart now and grieve for the loss of my friend.  
S. Thomas



**Sheila Thomas** - April 05, 2020 at 02:55 PM

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“ My condolences to the Lewis family, Tavia Stampley Cummings

**Tavia Stampley Cummings** - April 05, 2020 at 02:40 PM

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“ Deepest sympathy to the Lewis family. Alex was a wonderful person and outstanding leader in the New Orleans community. We will miss seeing him regularly at the New Orleans Ballet events. RIP  
Dr. Brenda Garibaldi Hatfield

**Dr. Brenda G. Hatfield** - April 05, 2020 at 02:29 PM

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“ My deepest sympathy to the AlexLewis, III family. Alex will always be remembered by his kind and giving spirit.

**Claudia Breland-Bryson** - April 05, 2020 at 02:19 PM

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“ I am very sorry for the loss of your sweet Alex. I worked with him at the World's Fair as well as the Sheraton! He has always been there for those in need. Healthy blessings to all of you as well.

**Sandra Sigur** - April 05, 2020 at 01:45 PM

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“ Please know that our love and prayers are with you and family!

Vernon, Hannah, & Derrick



**Hannah & Vernon Hart** - April 05, 2020 at 11:39 AM

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“ Condolences to Mr. Alex Lewis Family. PRAYERS for your Comfort, Strength and God's Peace.

He was truly a great person who mentor, and so many of us at the Sheraton Hotel NO, and others. His humble spirit, inspirational and encouraging words, leading by example were instrumental in empowering so many people he came in contact with. Thank YOU Mr A. Lewis for all you've done throughout the City of New Orleans. Well done thy good and faithful servant.

**Wanda James** - April 05, 2020 at 10:50 AM

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“ My prayers and condolences to Alex, Carlton, Christopher, Jason and the entire Lewis Family. Alex and I worked at Flame N Burger as teenagers together. Mr. Alex and Mrs. Mary were very nice People, they had hearts of gold. So sorry for your loss. May God comfort and give you all strength.

**Toni Reed Webb** - April 05, 2020 at 10:03 AM

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“ Condolences and sympathy. When at the Marriott, Alex was one of the first to assist me when trying to locate employment for my DECA students. He hired my Rabouin students every year. Also, many times he assisted in employment opportunities to young people and the unemployed. Although I was surprised by his theatrical skills, I was not disappointed. I will miss seeing his smiling face and good heart.

**Gwendolyn Suarez-Carriere** - April 05, 2020 at 09:36 AM

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“ RIP Brother Lewis, committed and faithful community leader and friend through the 9th Ward Voters League. Kenneth Russell

**Kenneth Russell** - April 05, 2020 at 09:33 AM

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“ Alex and I worked with the French Quarter Festival Folks, and I was one of his "Secret Shoppers". R.I.P.

**MICHAEL J. GOURRIER** - April 05, 2020 at 06:30 AM

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“ Deepest sympathy goes out too you during these troubling times.God only takes the best.Alex will always be loved and missed.Edgar and Mary Jackson.

**Edgar Jackson Jr** - April 05, 2020 at 05:00 AM

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“ Rhonda I. Johnson,I was always his tootie. That was my nickname science childhood. We may have lost touch here on earth but never in my heart.

**Rhonda I johnson(tootie)** - April 05, 2020 at 03:04 AM

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“ I met Mr. Lewis while working at Liberty bank . He was a kind , loving , willing to help you with anything type of guy . When I found he had passed I was so heartbroken and I'm praying for his family. MISSING MR LEWIS

**stacey relf** - April 05, 2020 at 01:32 AM

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“ Alex is fondly remembered as a witty man who made the best potato salad I have ever savored .

Honored that he performed in SCION , a one act play with the Chakula Cha Jua Theater Co. and in the Toni Morrison adapted The Bluest Eye at Anthony Bean Theater. I'm the playwright of SCION and directed The Bluest Eye, production . Alex was a trooper. Shine on star in heaven.

Adella

**Adella Gautier** - April 04, 2020 at 10:57 PM

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“ So many wonderful and loving memories that span 30 years from Sheraton days, JazzFest, Katrina survival, French Quarter Festival.....so proud to introduce Alex to my children and share new memories together AND I'll always grin remembering his pure joy at seeing the Autumn colors and majestic White Mtns of New England. Blessed to know another angel in heaven

**Teri Hontas** - April 04, 2020 at 07:03 PM

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“ A great memory of Uncle Alex comes easy. He was approachable, a good hugger, and cook. I called him once while at NO Armstrong airport, car would not start, he was there. Once we were in one of his favorite restaurant, had a delicious dinner. When we left the restaurant we left with the ham bone.

**Rhoda Baham Barnes** - April 04, 2020 at 06:44 PM

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“ My sincere condolences for the family. Mr Lewis was a kind gentle soul who I've known for years from the Sheraton days. A hard working man. Peace and prayers for my classmate Chris and the rest of the family. Rest in heaven Mr Lewis.

**Gina Age** - April 04, 2020 at 06:10 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Alex Isaac Lewis III.



April 04, 2020 at 05:47 PM

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“ The Lewis family became our extended family when we moved to New Orleans decades ago. Mr. Alex was a Godly, kind, warm, and funny man, and we will miss him tremendously. Our prayers are with the family.

**Teri Dobbins Baxter** - April 04, 2020 at 05:29 PM

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“ My condolences to Jason and the entire family during this difficult time. May God grant each of you comfort and peace.

**Janice Woods** - April 04, 2020 at 05:27 PM

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“ Praying that Gods love will comfort you all in this hour of loss.

**Alana Arbor** - April 04, 2020 at 05:21 PM

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“ My heart goes out to his family. May GOD hold you in his Loving Arms.

**Terri Fazande** - April 04, 2020 at 05:16 PM

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“ RIH Mr. Lewis, thank you for giving me my 1st job opportunity in Human Resources at the Sheraton New Orleans... Our deepest sympathy to you family, RIH, give Mrs. Lewis, and my Mom a kiss for me...



Joan Ulmer - April 04, 2020 at 05:14 PM

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“ My condolences to The Lewis Family. May the Lord continue to give you strength doing this trying and emotional time. I'll continue to pray for this family. 🙏

Deborah Taylor - April 04, 2020 at 03:49 PM

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“ Sending prayers, strength, love and peace to wherever is needed as you all navigate the transition of a great human spirit. My first encounter with Mr Lewis was amazing. He makes the hands down best pound cake I've ever had. I danced in the chair and he laughed. A smile i will always remember. I'm Grateful for the opportunity and experience of him. We've gained a great ancestor! Until later when we meet again...

Tracy Beavers - April 04, 2020 at 03:44 PM

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“ I am so sorry to hear of your father's death. Please know that I am thinking of you and praying for you and your family during this difficult time.

Judith C Blaise MD

Judith Blaise - April 04, 2020 at 03:40 PM

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“ My deepest sympathies to all my Cousins. This is a hard pill to swallow, and I can only pray that God provides comfort to y'all. I remember when I was growing up and I'd see Alex and Lil Mary at family gatherings like holidays and parties. Then the boys were born and life got busier for everyone, but still family stayed close and in touch. It's said that God knows best, and I believe that. I'm happy that Alex will be reunited with his love and family that's gone on before him. Rest in peace Cousin, you've earned your place in Heaven...

**Robin Jackson** - April 04, 2020 at 02:42 PM

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“ Job “well done” here on earth, I am sure our GOD is please and welcomes you home his good and faithful servant.

**Connie Lavigne** - April 04, 2020 at 02:25 PM



“ You will be truly missed. From the Robin's Family at Cornerstone United Methodist Church.

**Sabrina C. Taylor-Robins** - April 05, 2020 at 02:45 PM

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“ Deepest sympathies to your family during this difficult time. Alex was loved by his French Quarter Festivals, Inc. family, and will be truly missed. --Ann Wills

**Ann Wills** - April 04, 2020 at 01:51 PM

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“ My big Brother he was strong in family , he inspired me to do better in life, my inspiration. He will truly be missed. Rest in Peace Brother!

**Michael Lewis** - April 04, 2020 at 12:41 PM

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“ One of my treasured Memory of Alex, is him and my father ( his Uncle) riding in the Veterans Day Parade holding His Father 's picture. RIP Cuz

**Hermanese Lewis** - April 04, 2020 at 12:32 PM

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“ To the family we send our sincere condolences. Mr Lewis always made one feel welcome whenever he was in your presence. He will be greatly missed. Take your rest Pawpaw, a job well done.



**Leslie Herron** - April 04, 2020 at 12:30 PM

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“ Great life, great man, humble servant! Precious memories..... Trust God, He makes no mistakes!

**Dianne Morgan** - April 04, 2020 at 12:19 PM

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“ Our Condolences to the Lewis family from Thecla Blaise Rivers and Noel Rivers III

**Thecla Rivers** - April 04, 2020 at 08:36 AM

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“ There are so many GOOD things, I like many others could say about my cousin Alex Lewis III. I remember when he headed the personnel office at the Super Dome in 1977. He took care of EVERYBODY and I and many others will remember his embrace of his fellow man.

**Cesar Elloie** - April 03, 2020 at 08:19 PM



“ My cousin Alex loved God and his family. He will be missed.

**Mary Miller Anderson** - April 05, 2020 at 06:37 PM



“ To The Lewis Family:

We've lost a great treasure, who has left fond memories for us to reflect on for a lifetime. On Alex's journey to Heaven, he never looked back because the golden stairs of eternal life was his personal choice!!! RIP my dear cousin, as you meet The Royal Family Of GOD.

Judith Beauchamp-Watson &  
The Beauchamp Family

**Judith** - April 06, 2020 at 02:33 PM