



Alton Lionel Lawson ScD. MD.

March 27, 2020

Alton Lionel Lawson, ScD, MD, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 27, 2020 at the age of 81. Beloved husband of 40 years to Mary L. Pretz-Lawson. Devoted father to Isis Lawson in Pennsylvania and Hyogin Park in California. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gertrude Smith and James Lawson and four siblings. He is the brother of Mary Bell Hayes and Nathaniel Lawson, brother-in-law of Bonnie Blake, and uncle of Dr. Deidre Hayes (Calvin Johnson) and Brandon Blake, and numerous other nieces and nephews. Dr. Lawson dropped out of Booker T. Washington in New Orleans and joined the Navy. While in the Navy he learned that the only difference between him and his superior officer was an education. He was inspired to return to New Orleans and earn a GED. He completed his BS in Biology in the first graduating class of Southern University of New Orleans. He went to Yale where he received his MS in Public Health and then completed a PhD in Human Genetics at the University of Pittsburgh. At Brookhaven National Laboratory he did research in stem-cell kinetics. After completing medical school at Rutgers, Dr. Lawson practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His motto was Education is the Key to Success. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Southern University of New Orleans www.sunu.edu. A remembrance event is planned for a later date. Arrangements will be handled by D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Avenue.

Tribute Wall

BY

“ I didn't see Alton frequently as Doug and I were always living away from the Baker and Pretz families, but I will always remember how impressed I was by his kindness and empathy for my mother, who had fallen on the way to Aunt Dorothy's funeral and, as it turned out, had broken a couple of ribs. I'm sorry I didn't have the opportunity to spend more time with him. My love and condolences to Mary L and Isis and the entire family.

Betsy Baker Young - April 07, 2020 at 05:33 PM

RH

“ Sadly, Alton has only been a friend for a short time since he and Mary L moved to Lambeth House. He was an interesting and thoughtful man with a quiet sense of humor and I looked forward to getting to know him better. Since his illness I have learned more about his productive life. I offer my condolences to Alton's family and am so sorry at his passing. He will surely be missed. Rosemary Hays-Thomas

Rosemary Hays-Thomas - April 06, 2020 at 04:28 PM