

Community Leader Fondly Remembered

'Doc' Lewis broke barriers in adoptive state

Dr. Booker T. Lewis Jr. died on July 20, 2011 in Portland at the age of 88. Born on July 2, 1923 in Cleveland, Ohio to Booker T. Sr. and Alice E. Lewis, he spent his early years in Buffalo, N.Y. where he attended elementary and high school.

He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Fisk University and later earned his Doctor of Dentistry

degree from the Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry in 1948. In that same year, he married Emma L. Rucker and from this union three children were born. Emma passed away in 1972.

Affectionately known as Booker or 'Doc' to his many friends and family, he opened his first dental practice in Detroit, Mich., however, Uncle Sam had other plans and he was called into service with the United States Army. Dr. Lewis was the post dentist at Fort Carson in Colorado, where he reached the rank of Captain prior to being honorably discharged.



Dr. Booker T. Lewis Jr.

In 1955, Dr. Lewis moved to Portland and established a successful practice. Indeed, he became one of the pioneers of medicine and dentistry in his newly adopted state. As one of the first black dentists in Oregon, he served his community until his retirement in 2001.

In 1976, Dr. Lewis married Gladys Lewis and five stepchildren were added to the family unit. Gladys preceded him in death.

Dr. Lewis married Dorothy Spencer in 1984. The two of them enjoyed a lovely life together. During their 27 year union, they were devoted to each other at home, in the community, and through their love of the Lord. As lovely as Dorothy's singing voice is for her church family, Dr. Lewis had been equally dedicated to his faith. As a member of St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Parish since 1955, he served as a member of the vestry, and was a senior warden, treasurer and loyal member of the church usher board.

Dr. Lewis was actively involved with numerous civic organizations, community initiatives and clubs. He was a true trailblazer. Just to mention a few of his accomplishments, he was the first black member of the Portland City Club, the first black judge for the Rose Festival Court, and the first black member of Portland's University Club.

Dr. Lewis was also one of the founders and board members of Oregon's first black bank, American State Bank (formerly Freedom Bank of Finance). Also, he was one of the founders of the Oregon chapter of

Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

An avid golfer, Dr. Lewis won many golf tournaments across the country. He also was a member of the Leisure Hour Golf Club where he served as a mentor to encourage youth to enjoy the game he loved so much. In addition, Dr. Lewis was a member of the Oregon - Washington Football Club and was honored by the Portland Trail Blazers during Black History Month in 2006. He was, also, a member of Friends of Christians and Jews.

Among the wonderful attributes for which Dr. Lewis has been known throughout his lifetime are that he is well regarded as a man who was compassionate, good-natured and always a gentleman. Moreover, his kindness, great sense of humor, and marvelous dedication to justice toward everyone in his community and throughout the world will be fondly remembered.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife Dorothy S. Lewis, sister Helen Harris, daughters Rosalind Curry (Cicero) and Patricia A. Lewis, son Fredrick M. Lewis, five stepchildren, six grandchildren, three great grandchildren, a nephew—who is also a fellow dentist—Dr. Clyde Harris (Kim), and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

A funeral will be held at 10 a.m., Thursday, July 28, at St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church, 120 N.E. Knott St., with the interment to follow at Willamette National Cemetery. The viewing will be at Rose City Funeral Home on Wednesday, July 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

IMPOSSIBLE.

The hardest part about going to college is getting started. Learning about the steps needed, affordability and ultimately reaching your



career goals can, at first, seem a little unrealistic. But now it's easier than ever to get started. That's because there are counselors available to assist you with everything from the process of enrolling to financial aid options and career guidance.

Call Oregon's toll-free College Line at **1-877-848-4669**

or visit the State of Oregon website at **www.OregonOpportunities.gov** to get the resources to help adult learners access training or degree programs at Oregon colleges and universities. And help make your dream of going to college a reality.

College. It's possible now.

Sponsored by the State of Oregon

Week in The Review

Wu Resigns from Congress



U.S. Rep. David Wu, a Democrat from Oregon, said Tuesday that he will resign after seven-terms from Congress after allegations that he had unwanted sexual contact with a teenage girl. Although Wu said he will fight the serious allegations, he announced his resignation will take place as soon as the debt ceiling fight in Washington comes to an end. Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California called for an ethics investigation on Monday.

Portland Police arrested a 21-year-old man Sunday after two males with arms around each other were insulted with anti-gay slurs at Lovejoy Park, downtown. Dillan Joseph Cashman was charged with intimidation and assault. Police say one of the victims approached Cashman to tell him his remarks were out of line, which is when Cashman is accused of assaulting him.

Arrested for Bias Crime



Portland Police arrested a 21-year-old man Sunday after two males with arms around each other were insulted with anti-gay slurs at Lovejoy Park, downtown. Dillan Joseph Cashman was charged with intimidation and assault. Police say one of the victims approached Cashman to tell him his remarks were out of line, which is when Cashman is accused of assaulting him.

Mass Killer Admits Guilt

The self-described perpetrator of mass killings in Norway told authorities that he expects to spend the rest of his life in prison. Anders Behring Breivik has admitted bombing Norway's capital and opening fire on a political youth group retreat killing at least 76 people, but he entered a plea of not guilty, saying he acted to save Europe from Muslim immigration.



Amy Winehouse Dead

A funeral was held on Tuesday to commemorate the life of soul-jazz diva Amy Winehouse, who was found dead on Saturday at her home in northern London after struggling with addiction. An autopsy held Monday failed to determine what caused her death.