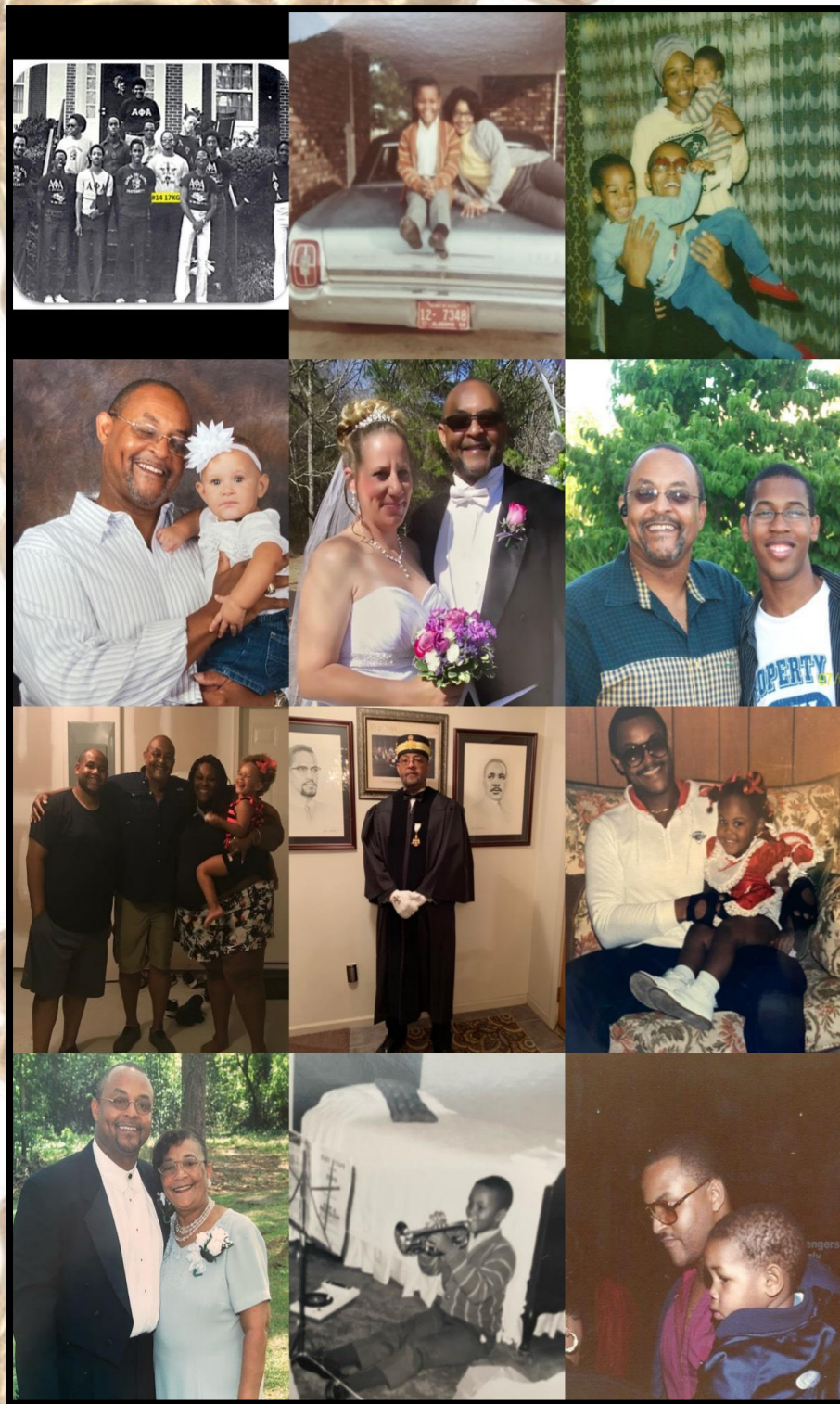


# *Precious Memories*



## *Honorary Pallbearers*

Xi Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.  
Douglas Masonic Lodge #73 PHA  
Former Students of  
West Coffee Middle School  
Coffee High School  
Fitzgerald High School  
Clark-Central High School

## *Acknowledgements*

The family of the late Dr. Robert Lee "Bobby" Lawrence, Jr. is grateful for all the acts of love, kindness, and sympathy shown to them during this time of bereavement. Your thoughtfulness, sympathetic smiles, silent embraces, prayers, and loving words have all helped to sustain us during this grief period. May God bless you all.  
- The Family of Dr. Robert Lee "Bobby" Lawrence, Jr.

## *Interment*

Douglas City Cemetery  
1623 North Gaskin Avenue  
Douglas, Georgia, 31533

*Final Arrangements Entrusted To:*



HARRELL'S FUNERAL HOME  
400 E. CHERRY STREET ~ DOUGLAS, GEORGIA 31533  
LICENSED DIRECTOR/EMBALMER, SIDNEY K. HARRELL  
OFFICE: (912) 384-2251  
WWW.HARRELLSFUNERALHOME.COM



# *Celebration of Life*

*For*

*Dr. Robert L. Lawrence, Jr.*



*Sunrise:*

*September 5, 1958*

*Sunset:*

*July 29, 2020*

*Saturday, August 8, 2020*

*10:00 AM*

*Douglas City Cemetery*

*1623 North Gaskin Avenue*

*Douglas, Georgia, 31533*

*Reverend Dr. Lewis Logan II, Eulogist*

# Obituary

On September 5, 1958, Dr. Robert Lee “Bobby” Lawrence, Jr. was born to the parentage of Mrs. Willie L. Hill (Lawrence) Sambula and the late Mr. Robert Lawrence, Sr. of Lanett, Alabama.

At an early age, this precocious, talented young man joined the Goodsell United Methodist Church under the pastorate of the Reverend L.A. Chastang, and there, his spiritual journey with the Lord began. Bobby, as he was affectionately called, worked faithfully in the church. He served as director of the youth choir.

Bobby attended and graduated from Lanett High School with academic and musical honors in 1976. He furthered his education at Troy State University, where he received a Bachelor of Music Education in 1979 and a master’s degree in Secondary Education in 1980. Bobby is recognized as the first African American drum major for Sound of the South, the marching band of Troy State University. He taught Drum Major Camps with marching Auxiliaries of America in 48 states.

Upon graduation from Troy State University in 1980, Bobby became a middle school band director at Douglas Middle School, located in Thomasville, Georgia. After completing one year of teaching, Bobby enlisted in the U.S. Army and, upon retirement, was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He then became the director of bands at Sierra High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and served as a state officer in the Colorado Music Educators Association.

In 1992, he became the assistant band director at Coffee High School, where he founded the Coffee High School Jazz Band “Trojectory,” which released the album “One Trojectory” in 1996. Bobby also became the first band director at West Coffee Middle School, leading them to 24 Superior Ratings and 2 Excellent ratings in State Large Group Concert Band Festival, winning four national competitions and performing in the renowned Carnegie Hall in the Spring of 2001.

# Obituary

Summer of 2004, South Carolina State University came calling, and Bobby spent the next five years as Coordinator of Music while completing his doctorate degree. Upon completion of his doctorate, Dr. Robert Lee “Bobby” Lawrence, Jr. accepted the role as Director of Bands/Co-Chairman of Fine Arts Department for Clarke Central High School in Athens, Georgia. During his time there, he developed a band program from 18 students to over 175 students, which included four concert ensembles, one percussion ensemble, one brass ensemble, and two jazz ensembles.

After a decade in Athens, Bobby spent one final year of teaching at Fitzgerald High School before deciding to retire in Douglas, Georgia. He was a member of the Xi Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Douglas Masonic Lodge #73 PHA, King Chapter #104 HRAM, Grand Inspector General Robert J. Walters Consistory #356, Temple Al Kerka #194, and the United Supreme Council 33rd Degree. Bobby’s hobbies consisted of fishing, cooking, working in the yard, and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Preceding him in death are Willie Hill (grandfather), Irene Hill (grandmother), Robert L. Lawrence, Sr. (father), Clarence L. Sambula (stepfather).

He is survived by his wife, Mary (Bryan)Lawrence; children, Edwina Lawrence of Atlanta, Georgia, Robert Lawrence III (Assada) of Atlanta, Georgia, Stuart Lawrence of Seattle, Washington, Rylee Lawrence of Douglas, Georgia and Anthony Crowell of Portland, Oregon; mother, Willie L. Sambula of Lanett, Alabama, stepmother Vernon Lawrence of Birmingham, Alabama; grandchildren, Aubrey Hines, Brandon Lawrence, Ayden Lawrence, Jackson Willis, Khaleesi Willis, and Sebastian Lawrence; sister, A. Michelle Sutton (Stephen) and nephew, Jackson Sutton.

# Order of Service

- Processional.....Ministers and Family
- Ringing of the Bell (7 Times)
- The Invocation..... Reverend Dr. Lewis Logan II
- The Scripture Readings:
  - Ecclesiastes 3: 1-3.....Edwina Lawrence
  - John 14: 1-3..... Edwina Lawrence
- Solo..... Minister Kentaiwon Durham
- Reflections..... 2 Minutes Please
  - As a Professional
  - As a Church Member
  - As a Friend
  - As a Father
- Solo.....Soloist
- Words of Comfort..... Reverend Dr. Lewis Logan II
- Acknowledgements.....Harrell’s Staff
- Committal Services
- Benediction

