



Olen H. Lewis Jr.

August 2, 1937 - February 1, 2019

Williamsburg: Olen Hales Lewis Jr., 81, son of the late Olen H. Lewis Sr. and Willie Major Lewis of Richmond, died in Norfolk February 1, 2019, following a short illness. At the time of his death Olen was living in Williamsburg and formerly lived in Gloucester for many years.

A native of Richmond, Olen attended John Marshall High School and graduated from the University of Richmond with a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in history and mathematics; he also received a master's degree in humanities from the University of Richmond.

While growing up in Richmond, he sang in the All Saints Episcopal Church Boys Choir and was active in theater groups. He continued this love of theater and while at the university performed at the renowned Barksdale Theater in Hanover County. During this same time he also worked in the Archives Division of the Virginia State Library (now the Library of Virginia).

After graduation Olen taught in the Mathews County School system, (1961-1962), and for the following 29 years in the Gloucester County School System, (1962-1991). He taught, history, government and humanities and also coached the Gloucester High School's first soccer team and started the chess club. From the mid 1980s until 1995 he was an adjunct professor at Rappahannock Community College. He frequently commented that he was the happiest when he was teaching.

He was chairman of the Gloucester County Republican Committee for eight years in the 1970s, and in 1979 was appointed by then Governor John Dalton to a four-year term as the first ever public member to any state regulatory agency. He served on the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers from 1979 to 1984.

Olen was elected to serve as an Elector (State of Virginia) to the Electoral College to cast a vote for the President of the United States in 1980. Also, in Gloucester County he served as director of the Head Start Summer Program; started a children's theater group; was a member of the Lions Club and for many years Olen served as director and producer of the Lion's Club Bi-Annual Variety Show, where he was known as "Olie the Clown."

A member of Abingdon Episcopal Church, he was active in the men's club. In his post teacher retirement years he worked for Colonial Williamsburg and portrayed Mr. Chowning

at Chowning's Tavern in the historic area. His major interests included theater, music, history, politics, genealogy and the outdoors—camping, fishing, canoeing, sailing. Olen was an avid reader and loved animals.

He is survived by his daughter Robin Elizabeth Lewis of Chantilly, Va.

A memorial service will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, February 9, at Abingdon Episcopal Church, 4625 George Wash Mem Hwy, Gloucester, VA. In memory of Olen, contributions can be made to the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society, P. O. Box 385, Gloucester, VA 23061.

Arrangements are under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home, Gloucester Point. Please visit www.hoggfh.com to share condolences and memories.

Events

FEB **Memorial Service**

11:00AM

9

Abingdon Episcopal Church

4645 George Washington Mem Hwy, Gloucester, VA, US, 23061

Comments



“ Please accept my family’s heartfelt condolences on the loss of your dear loved one Mr. Lewis. May you find comfort in fond memories of him, and hope in God’s promise to restore those asleep in death to perfect life on a paradise Earth... ridding us of death forever.

Greene Family - February 15 at 02:30 PM



“ Robin, You know your dad and I were friends for many years and I regret being away for his funeral. It was he who first approached me about seeking election to the House of Delegates and also gave the initial nominating address. A superb teacher, he would bring his senior government class to the Capitol each year and we would assign them one-on-one to shadow a legislator for the day. The students were always prepared, knowing the legislators’ committee assignments, etc. Olen served our community in so many ways and his legacy endures.

Harvey Morgan - February 11 at 12:55 AM



“ Dear Robiin,
I'm so sorry for "Mr. Lewis's", Olen's passing. He was a very important and memorable part of my childhood. As another 'redhead', he seemed to always watch out for me. He gave me opportunities in the Junior Choir, solos, and he was available in T.C. Walker Jr. High when I needed help.
As I remember, he treasured you. His smile radiated when you were bouncing around the church and Sunday School. In my adulthood, I only saw him a couple of times, but he would share your well being and 'glow' with pride.
The passing of a parent is very difficult and my words to you are allow yourself to grieve and hold on to the good memories. He will always be in your heart.
I wish I could attend the service today, but I'm under the weather and unable to 'physically' be there. My prayers are with you and your family.

Mall Sears

Mall Sears Fraser-Seay - February 09 at 09:46 AM



“ Share a memory...there are too many, Mr. Lewis taught me from 5th grade to 12th grade. He cared about us, he listened to us and he taught us so much. Here is one story that I have shared with my children and grandchildren. We were sitting in our 5th grade classroom at Botetourt (later know as the Kenny Building). He pulled the shades, turned off the lights and read A Tale Tell Heart, using a flashlight. He was

sitting on his desk and when the main character would hear the heart beat, he would gently kick his desk to the beat of the heart. Yes, if you were ever taught by Mr. Lewis, you knew Edgar Allen Poe. I still read Poe. Thanks, Mr. Lewis.

Denise Rhea Carter - February 07 at 09:27 AM