



Thomas C. Lane IV

March 21, 1925 - May 18, 2017

THOMAS C. LANE IV

March 21, 1925 – May 18, 2017

Mr. Thomas C. Lane IV was born on March 21, 1925 to the late Thomas Clarkson Lane, III and Helen Loper Lane. He was reared in Philadelphia and the Main Line areas of Radnor, Malvern and Devon, PA.

Thomas was proud to serve in the United States Marine Corps for three years. During his enlistment, he rose to the rank of sergeant and received an honorable discharge after serving in WWII. After the military, he enrolled and graduated from Cheyney State College (now Cheyney State University). While attending Cheyney, “Tommy” was involved in many organizations and held many offices. He was elected President of the Young Men’s Council; President of his Junior and Senior classes; President of the first Omega Psi Phi Chapter, Beta Gamma; Pledge Club; and Vice President of the Young Christian Association. Upon graduation, Lane was an honor graduate receiving a Bachelor of Science degree. He was the recipient of the Omega Psi Phi Achievement Award. He later attended graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania and received a Master of Science degree in Educational Administration. He continued his studies at both the University of Pennsylvania and Glassboro State College (now Rowan) where he later served on the college faculty in the summer of 1965.

In 1951, “Mr. Lane” began his teaching career at the Wister Elementary School, Philadelphia, PA. He then taught at Gouldtown Elementary School (1952-62), serving as principal his last three years. From 1962 to 1993 he served in the Bridgeton Public School system. He was principal at South Avenue, Cherry Street and Bank Street schools before becoming the District’s Director of Federal Programs. It was in this position he became Assistant Superintendent of Schools. He retired after serving as Bridgeton’s first black Superintendent of Schools from 1987 to 1993.

Mr. Lane was a pillar in the community and enjoyed serving in a plethora of organizations and associations: Pres. Of the Rural Education Assoc.; Sec’y of the CCEA; Chairman of the Bridgeton Chapter of the NCCJ; Member of the Fairfield Township Board of Education; Boy Scout Committeeman; Sunday School Superintendent; Little League Coach; Treasurer, V.P. and Pres. of NJASCD; Pres. of Bridgeton Administrators; Board of

Directors of the Bridgeton Day Care Center; Member of the Task Force for Home Economics; Member of the State Advisory Board of Instructional Development Institute; Member Board of Directors of Bridgeton Rotary; Member of the National Nominating Committee for ASCD; Member of the Vocational Study Commission; National VP of NAFEPA; Advisory Board of N.J. Curriculum Management Center; Pres. Bridgeton Rotary, Chairman of the FHA County Committee; Member of the Technical Advisory Council; Pres. of NJAFPA; Committeeman for Fairfield Twp. Title VII Program; Trustee of the NJ Prison Complex; Bridgeton Cultural Center Board of Directors; Pres. Garden State Umpires Assoc.; Member Bridgeton's Centennial Committee; Mentor in the Bridgeton Public Schools; VP and Pres. of the Fairfield Township Board of Education; Former Treasurer, Board of Trustees, at his beloved Trinity AME Church; Member of the Fairfield Township Fire Co. #2; and Member of the Board of Directors Bridgeton Hospital.

"Mr. Lane" was deservedly showered with numerous honors and special awards: Who's Who in Education; Outstanding Educator in America; Test Cities Day Care Outstanding Contributor; Bridgeton Rotary Leadership Award; George Woodruff Memorial Award; Distinguished Alumni Service Award; John A. Cowan Award; Paul Harris Fellowship; Freemasonry Outstanding Citizen Award Valley of Camden; Inductee into the Black Hall of Fame, Cheyney University's Athletic and Alumni Halls of Fame; and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor as a Montford Point Marine. The Fairfield Township School was dedicated to him and the National Congress of Black Women recognized him as an outstanding educator. Most recently, he was honored as a Greater Bridgeton Legend in April, 2017.

"Tommy" was a devoted husband, Daddy, and Pop Pop and family member. Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 69 years, his college sweetheart, Cordelia (Wynder). He was predeceased by his sister, Geraldine Amelia Dickson. His children, who will miss him dearly, are Audrey, Retired DuPont Administrator; Thomas V, Director of Life Science Sales Chemglass Life Sciences, LLC.; Geraldine, Fairfield Twp. School Teacher; Sharon, PhD. Statistics Professor, St. Olaf College and Crystal, PhD, Director of Nursing, ECPI University; and Frank, Attorney, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Eight grandchildren will treasure memories of their Pop Pop and 11 great grandchildren will enjoy the playset that Pop Pop had built for them for years to come. All descendants have been blessed with the great legacy that he has established. He will also be lovingly remembered by his Sparrow "siblings", Que "brothers", other extended family members, friends, and his beloved "Que" doggie.

Words cannot express the impact that Mr. Lane has had on numerous people who have been blessed from the magnifying presence of his warm love, indiscriminate generosity, great wisdom, unyielding kindness, infectious humor, superior knowledge and example as an obedient child of God. His influence as a pillar of our community will be everlasting.

Viewing - Friday, May 26th @ 6-9 PM

Trinity A.M.E. Church, Gouldtown
1107 Bridgeton- Millville Pike
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
(856) 455-5905

Viewing/Funeral - Saturday, May 27th
Union Baptist Temple
30 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
(856) 451-6054

For GPS use, the address is: 28 South Pine St. Bridgeton, NJ 08302.

Viewing @ 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM. Please arrive before 10:00 AM for pre-funeral and funeral service. Doors close promptly at 10:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, monetary gifts may be made in memory of Thomas C. Lane IV to:

- The Trustees of Trinity AME Church 1107 Bridgeton Millville Pike Bridgeton, NJ 08302
- Bridgeton High School Merit: In Memo -Thomas C. Lane IV Scholarship 10 Washington Street Bridgeton, NJ 08302 or
Cumberland Regional High School, Thomas C. Lane IV Scholarship Fund 90 Silverlake Road Seabrook, NJ 08302

Cemetery

Events

Gouldtown Memorial Park Cemetery

Route 49 & Route 553

Bridgeton, NJ,

MAY 26 **Visitation** 06:00PM - 09:00PM

Trinity A.M.E. Church Gouldtown
Rt. 49, Gouldtown, NJ, US

MAY 27 **Visitation** 08:00AM - 10:00AM

Union Baptist Temple
Martin Luther King Way, Bridgeton, NJ, US

MAY 27 **Service** 11:00AM

Union Baptist Temple
Martin Luther King Way, Bridgeton, NJ, US

Comments



“ First brother I ever saw wear a suit everyday the original role model I'll never forget his board of education working on May doctorate because of mr lane always wanted to stop by and holler at him when I came home RIP TOMMIE

bernard - August 17, 2017 at 06:46 PM



“ What a legacy your Dad left on the world around him, Geri. There is so much you could say about him - his courage, his faith, his purpose, his love for others, his desire to make the world a better place... My very favorite memory of your father was his performance of Martin Luther King, Jr's speech "I Have a Dream". I could feel the depth of his heart and soul poured out in this speech when your Dad performed it. Your dad left his mark on the lives of many and on the community. I am truly sorry for your loss. I hope the many memories you have of him will keep him close, and his positive impact on so many others will comfort you. Thinking of you, Rosanne

Rosanne F C - May 29, 2017 at 09:28 PM



“ To The Family of Thomas Lane IV
May the family and friends of Mr Lane find comfort in the hope the Bible gives us at Rev:21:3&4. May the comfort of God strengthen you all during this difficult time. Mr Lane IV achieved many things during his lifetime. We can appreciate all that he done for the school systems. "To his son ,Dock", know that Brad and I are thinking about you during this time.

LORRAINE & Brad - May 28, 2017 at 07:51 AM



“ Mr. Lane was the Superintendent of Schools during my tenure as a teacher for the Bridgeton Board of Education. He called me his "problem child" because of the times I would make an appointment to see him about some request for Cherry Street Preschool. He would listen carefully to my request, smile that slight smile, and not give me an immediate answer, although within a few days each request was granted. For example, I had the bold idea of bringing all the elementary schools together for the first International Day Of the Child field day at the High School Stadium. I requested different colored T-Shirts by school for all the children and teachers. He coordinated the logistics and that day he gave the opening speech as only Mr. Lane could do. He stood before the microphone in his suite, and stated, "Let the games begin". At that moment he took off his jacket to reveal he too had his International Day of the Child T-Shirt on. The entire stadium cheered and clapped for him. He had so much love in his heart for his family and the children of Bridgeton-Gouldtown.

Thank you Mr. Lane. Thank you! Dr. Ollievita Browne-Williams

Ollievita Williams - May 26, 2017 at 10:00 PM



“ Willie and Mary Watts & family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Thomas C. Lane IV.



Willie and Mary Watts & family - May 26, 2017 at 02:27 PM



“ Mr. Lane proved many things to many people during the course of this life on Earth. One of the more obvious to this student of his understanding is that the word stature is poorly served when used to define humans in metric terms. For Mr. Lane was a Giant of a man.

Gary Lynn Peacock

Gary Peacocks - May 26, 2017 at 09:09 AM



“ To the family, we are sorry for your loss. may God continue to give you strength and take you through this sad time. We are praying for you. The Wayne Magee Sr. family.

Mary Magee - May 25, 2017 at 06:17 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Thomas C. Lane IV.



May 25, 2017 at 05:55 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the family on the loss of one of the pillars of our community.

Valerie Fulton - May 24, 2017 at 09:57 PM



“ I am a 1979 graduate of Bridgeton Senior High School and I remember Mr. Lane very well. A remarkable man and a very kind man. Mr. Lane will be remembered in my daily prayers. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Debra Stratton Capaldi - May 24, 2017 at 02:23 PM



“ I have admired Mr Lane since I was a young boy playing baseball in the Bridgeton Little League. I also had the opportunity and pleasure to work for Mr Lane as a teacher in the Bridgeton School System. He opened many doors for me and I will be eternally grateful.
He was a true professional, a perfect gentleman and a wonderful family man, I am a better person for having had Mr Lane in my life. He was a great man and a wonderful person. With deepest love and sympathy.
Fred Kauffmann (Pittsburgh, PA)



Fred Kauffmann - May 24, 2017 at 01:49 PM



“ Dear Sharon and other family members, friends and loved ones of Mr. Thomas Lane, my deepest condolences to you upon your loss. He was clearly a very special and loved man by many, and you are in my heart and prayers during this time. May your memories of him continue to sustain you, and grow in love and depth as time passes. With much love, and wishing peace for all, Justin Connor

Justin Connor - May 24, 2017 at 01:34 PM



“ To my Lane family. He gave me encouragement to take this trip so I am not there with you physically. My spirit is there as I feel your father's spirit here with me. Much love and may God bless and keep you. Jo Ann Thompson Street



“ Geri, condolences on the passing of your dad.

Terry (Geffner) Dooley

Terry Dooley - May 24, 2017 at 09:45 AM



“ To Tom and the Lane Family, it is with heartfelt sympathy that I extend my condolences. I knew Your Dad for only a short period of time but I'll always remember how kind and wise he was. God knows best and memories last forever.
Antoinette (Toni) Singleton

Antoinette (Toni) Singleton - May 24, 2017 at 08:54 AM



“ I will always remember the professionalism Mr. Lane used in dealing with difficult work issues. He will be remembered as an outstanding member of the community a promoter of fairness and an educator. How proud his family must Ber of him. So sorry for your loss.
Cathy cooper

Cathy cooper - May 24, 2017 at 06:59 AM



“ WHAT A WONDERFUL MAN,HE TAUGHT US GOULD TOWN KIDS TO BELIEVE THAT WE COULD DO ANYTHING WE PUT OUR MIND AND HARD WORK INTO WAS ACHIEVEABLE.HE WAS MY MENTOR,COACH. TEACHER AND FRIEND.WE SHARED MANY GOOD TIMES TOGETHER,MY RENEWAL OF MY WEDDING VOWS,MY COLLEGE HALL OF FAME INDUCTION AND HELPING ME WITH ANY PROBLEMS I HAD WITH JUST A PHONE CALL.I AM GOING TO MISS THIS AMAZING MAN. I WANT TO THANK HIS FAMILY FOR SHARING HIM SO WILLINGLY WITH US OVER THE MANY YEARS,HE WAS OUR FATHER FIGURE AND FRIEND.NINETY-TWO YEARS WAS JUST TO SHORT FOR OUR HERO AND FRIEND.I WILL NEVER SAY GOOD BYE,SEE YOU LATER ON THE OTHER SIDE.LOVE YOU FRATERNALY, YOUR OMEGA BROTHER"FRENSHIP IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SOUL" LOVE SKIP MASON.

GERALD "SKIP" MASON - May 24, 2017 at 06:26 AM



“ What a man....no words can express...always in my heart Uncle Tommy!!!

Elsie Mason - May 23, 2017 at 10:00 PM



“ He was a very kind and loveing man. He will be missed



john mosley jr - May 23, 2017 at 08:46 PM



“ I worked for the Federal Programs Dept in Vineland and had the honor of knowing Mr. Lane. He was full of knowledge of the NJ Educational system. I remember him as always a perfect gentleman and respected educator. My condolences to the Lane family.

Dee Lynch - May 23, 2017 at 08:46 PM



“ Mr. Thomas Lane was an inspirational mentor whose positive influence on many generations of students and colleagues will be felt long after his passing. We all have our memories and reasons to be grateful to this wise, humorous and kind giant. I will never forget what it was like to be a teacher under his wing. In particular was the time we worked very hard to obtain a special grant for the district. The deadline was approaching and we had worked together until about midnight. I laughingly mentioned it was Jane's birthday. He raised those eyebrows, eyes glistening and in a voice many of us remember, asked me what the heck I was doing being there and not home! He chuckled, told me to get the heck out and gave me money to buy Jane a bottle of champagne..which I did the next day. Ask me why I loved the man... How could one not! Will always miss you, Boss! Bob McCormick

Bob McCormick - May 23, 2017 at 08:36 PM



“ Mr Lane was a true educator. He cared about the children and he had a gift of relating to the teachers as well as all staff members. I've never once heard anyone speak of Mr. Lane unkindly----- Never! He was also Number ONE on the ball field. He umpired with my husband, CONNIE McKnight. I have a beautiful picture on my

wall of Mr. Lane and my husband that had been printed in , " The South Jersey Times" a few years ago. Mr. Lane impacted so many lives in a positive light. RIP, MR. Thomas Lane.

Bonnie McKnight - May 23, 2017 at 06:42 PM



“ I was blessed to have Mr.Lane as my boss when I worked in the Bridgeton School System.He made the Federal Program successful with his intelligence and care for children. His office worked as a family for the education of Bridgeton students. He had humor that helped us solve problems and do our best for the children. He was a unique man that used all the talents God gave him to help others and give loving attention to his family. He will be missed but his memories will last forever. He has earned the peace he has now. Love and prayers to the family

Abbie W. Goldsborough - May 23, 2017 at 06:15 PM



“ Paul & Joyce Cooper purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Thomas C. Lane IV.



Paul & Joyce Cooper - May 23, 2017 at 05:56 PM



“ Your love for the education of Children and your card for Bridgeton and it's community will be greatly missed. I hope you know how much we appreciated your tireless work and the love you showed in your poem to my Dad and our family. My thoughts,prayers and God's comfort be we those you left behind.

Lee Ann Holfelder Rose



Lee Ann Holfelder Rose - May 23, 2017 at 01:25 PM



“Bridgeton has lost a "treasured" citizen The touching poem he gave at my husband's funeral meant so much to me and my family. Tom's wit and smile were contagious. Know thoughts and prayers are with you. In deep gratitude for the life of Tom Lane,
Linda Holfelder

Linda Holfelder - May 23, 2017 at 12:41 PM



“Thank you Mr. Lane for being a champion for the Bridgeton school system and the city of Bridgeton in general. You will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to your family.
Rest in peace.
Kaia Holfelder Emerick

Kaia Holfelder Emerick - May 23, 2017 at 12:36 PM



“Thanks Mr. Lane for all you did for Bridgeton!
You were a pioneer and a friend to all, especially the HOLFELDERS!
Rest in peace!

Mark Holfelder - May 23, 2017 at 12:19 PM



“I will always have fond memories of Mr Lane,one special memory is when i got in trouble i told teacher that Mr Lane was my dad and she believed me and i didnt have to go to the office..I later told Mr Lane about this and he laughed..My dad's name was Thomas Lane so I didnt lie..Mr Lane had a great sense of humor..Wonderful man..praying for the family

Joyce Lane Brewer - May 24, 2017 at 06:08 AM



“Dear Lane family, I love you and I pray for the Lord's comfort for you all during this time.

The Gift

Thomas C. Lane IV was one of a kind
With Hollywood good looks and a brilliant mind
Words fall short of capturing his essence
His presence in our lives was no coincidence

A living example of a spirit filled life
With six amazing children and a beautiful wife
A hearty laugh that was contagious
His words instilled confidence, made you feel courageous

A man who shared his gifts, wisdom and knowledge
And motivated many to graduate from college
A caring soul with a loving heart

Memories of which will never part

Rest in peace, love always

Willie Watts

Willie Watts - May 26, 2017 at 01:01 PM