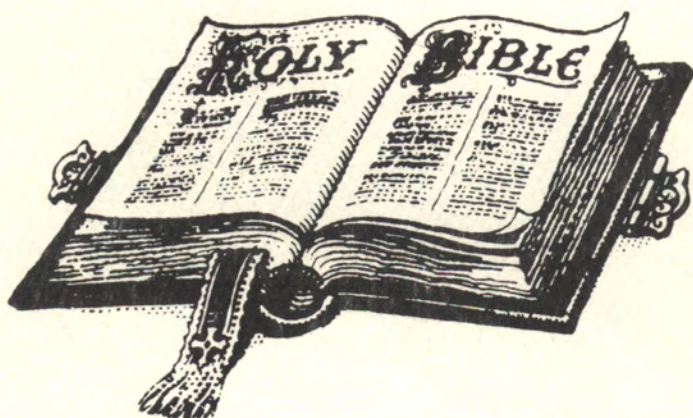


# Homegoing Celebration

for

John W. Lawton



Wednesday, November 27, 1996

— 11:00 A.M. —

Hoosier Memorial United Methodist Church

2545 Benjamin E. Mays Drive, Southwest

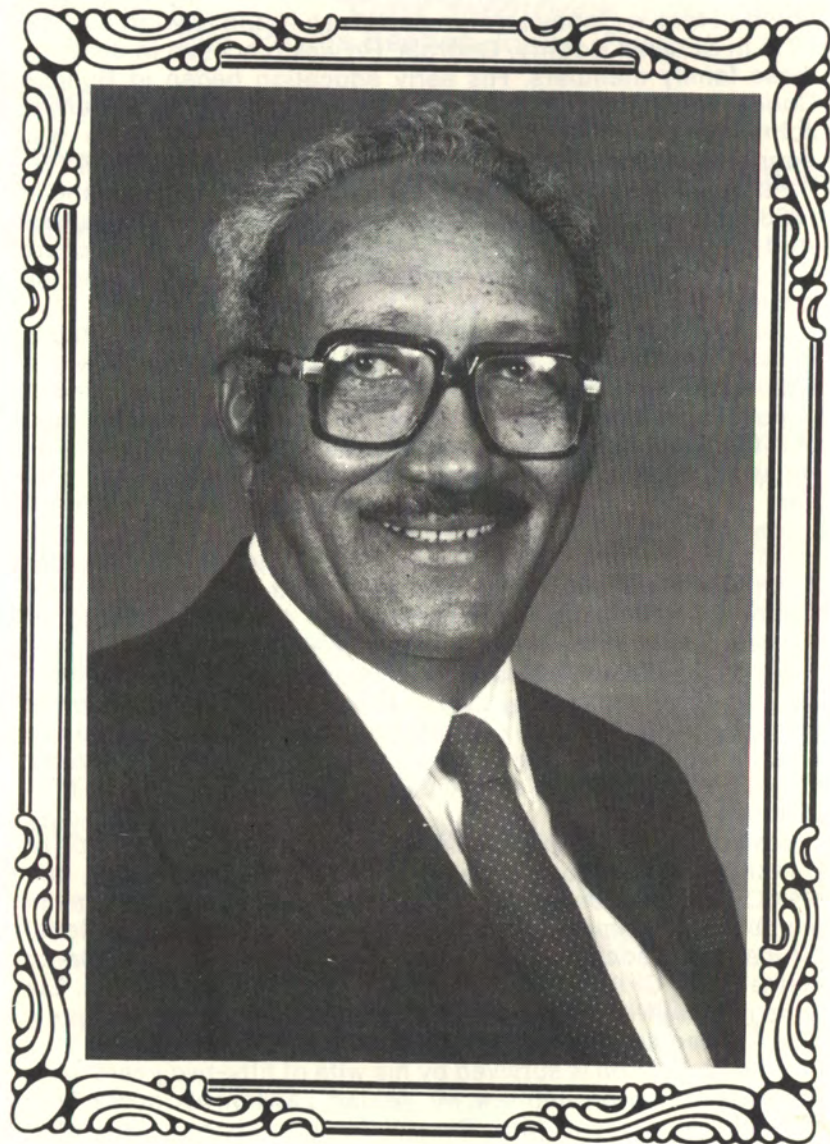
Atlanta, Georgia

The Reverend Donald K. Reed, *Pastor*  
*Officiating*

*"There are those who give little of the much which they have — and they give it for recognition and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome. And there are those who have little and give it all. These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty."*

*From "The Prophet"*  
*Kahlil Gibran*

*In Loving Memory*





## Obituary

**John W. Lawton**, the youngest of four children, was born to the union of Mattie Coney Lawton and Washington Lawton July 31, 1915 in Screven County, Georgia. He was preceded in death by these family members. His early education began in Bulloch County, Georgia. After the family moved to Statesboro, Georgia, John attended William James High School where he was awarded a diploma.

He continued his education at Savannah State College, and in 1938 received the Bachelor of Science degree. John did further study at Atlanta University, Tuskegee Institute and Teachers College of Columbia University from which he was awarded the Masters of Arts degree.

John began his professional career as an agriculture teacher in Bulloch and Morgan Counties. He soon became Principal of the Willow Hill Elementary School in Bulloch County. Active in local, regional and state education affairs, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Georgia Teachers and Education Association. He also served as Vice President and President of the Association. His work in the field of education was temporarily interrupted from 1943 to 1946 while he served in the U.S. Army.

On June 1, 1944, John married Anne Miller. They moved to Atlanta in 1965 after John was appointed to the staff of the National Education Association as Associate Regional Representative in the Southeast Regional Office.

From early childhood, John had been active in the Methodist Church. He served as Lay Leader for the Central Jurisdiction of the Georgia Conference of United Methodist Churches. He is a Charter member of the Hoosier Memorial United Methodist Church and has served as Lay Leader and Chairman of the PPR Committee.

John served with distinction on several important Boards of Directors; the Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Bank, the NAACP, and the United Methodist Children's Home. He is a life member of the American Teachers Association and the National Educators Association. He is a past president of the Atlanta Metro Lions Club, a member of the Atlanta Senior Golfers, Eta Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Benningites, The Joymen and the Pine Acres Town and Country Club.

John W. Lawton is survived by his wife of fifty-two years, Mrs. Anne Miller Lawton; nephew, Mr. William Lawton; two aunts, Mrs. Gertrude Harris and Mrs. Bessie Canady; sister-in-law, Mrs. Shedricka V. Miller; godchildren, Dr. Robert Jennings and Miss Alethia Sykes; and a host of cousins, other relatives and devoted friends.

## Order of Service

PRELUDE ..... "*Come Sweet Death*" ..... Bach  
Mrs. Phyllis Beetles-Jones, *Pianist*

PROCESSIONAL

HYMN OF PRAISE... "*Come Ye Disconsolate*"... Moore

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES:

The Old Testament, *Psalm 23*

The New Testament, *John 14:1-6*

The Reverend Richard D. Winn

*Pastor, Warren Memorial United Methodist Church*

PRAYER..... The Reverend Dr. Rodney T. Smothers  
*Pastor, Central United Methodist Church*

HYMN ..... "*Come Thou Almighty King*"

EULOGY ..... Pastor Donald K. Reed

SOLO..... "*Wind Beneath My Wings*"  
Brother Henry Porter, *Omega Psi Phi Fraternity*

OMEGA MEMORIAL SERVICE

RECESSIONAL ..... "*When We All Get To Heaven*"

## Interment

Greenwood Cemetery  
1173 Cascade Avenue, Southwest  
Atlanta, Georgia



## TRIBUTES TO JOHN W. LAWTON

*There was a man named John who lived by the "the Fruit of the Spirit":*

*John was a man filled with love and who  
spread joy among others.*

*John was a peaceful man and a man of patience.*

*John was a kind man who shared his goodness with others.*

*John was a faithful man.*

*John was a gentle man who exercised self control.*

**John W. Lawton** - member, Hoosier United Methodist Church — as a Charter Member of Hoosier with extensive knowledge of the Methodist Church structure should be considered a Hoosier "Founder and Promoter." John served in many leadership positions, including member of the Administrative Board and Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC).

Aside from his support of the general church program, he had an ardent desire to see men take an active leadership role in the church and community. As such, he was one of the founders of the **Fifth Sunday Men's Breakfast**, a program that not only provided fellowship for the United Methodist Men, but spiritual growth and development for the entire Hoosier family. He also helped to develop the annual Thanksgiving Dinner for senior citizens and residents from one of the public housing projects. John Lawton, a committed christian truly believed and demonstrated that in order to build God's kingdom here on earth, we should **talk less** and **work more**.

Geoffrey Heard  
Chair, Administrative Board

## Tribute to John Lawton The Educator

It has been said that "only ten percent of the people of the world make the world a better place in which to live; the other ninety just come along and live in it."

John W. Lawton can most assuredly be cast among the world's ten percent. His successful work with groups of people, all races of people, all genders, grade levels, as well as philosophically different people, make him stand out as one who made a positive contribution to many segments of the American society.

We are thankful to God for allowing John Lawton to come into this world, fill his special educational niche and thereby become a part of this world's ten percent.

It is our feeling that our world is better because of the educational contribution of John W. Lawton. We thank God for him.

Written on behalf of thousands of Educators who where represented by the Georgia Teachers and Education Association

by  
Horace E. Tate  
Executive Director from 1961 to 1970

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## A Tribute to An Employer and A Friend

John Lawton was a Field Representative in the Southeastern Regional Office of the National Education Association. It was my privilege to serve as his secretary for more than five years. He was a quiet and effective person (he got the job done). Through the years he became a trusted friend, and in addition to his many commendable qualities I was delighted when he agreed to serve as my daughter's godfather. I thank God for the friendship we shared.

Eloise K. Sykes  
Secretary/Friend



### Tribute to A Good Citizen

This community has lost a complete man, one who brought joy and love to many. Our community is richer because of his wisdom and sharing. Atlanta has lost a favorite son and Council District 10 has lost a friend.

C. T. Martin, Member  
Atlanta City Council

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### Tribute to A Faithful Member

John Lawton was a loyal and faithful member of the Pine Acres Town and Country Club. He was always willing to undertake any task that would enhance or improve the club's position in the community. His knowledge, wit and laughter will be greatly missed.

Louis V. Reese, Jr., M.D.  
President

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### A Farewell to Joyman John W. Lawton

More than a decade ago, John W. Lawton was accepted into membership in the Joymen Club. At the time of his demise, he was seventh in seniority on the membership roster. During his term as chairman of the club's social committee, Joyman Lawton brought many structural changes and innovations to the Joymen Club. Among these are (1) standard meeting dates, (2) seating and food service arrangements for annual social events. His plans of action were so practical and complete that they are still in use today. His contributions will long be remembered and appreciated by his fellow Joymen.

Joyman Lawton was not one to accept the status quo. He readily and happily shared his wisdom and expertise with club members in his efforts to attain betterment for the Joymen.

We will remember Joyman John W. Lawton with these words from Henry Van Dyke: "There is only one way to get ready for immortality, and that is to love this life, and live it as bravely and cheerfully and faithfully as we can." Joyman Lawton was true to the Joymen motto — he "lived, laughed and loved" bravely, cheerfully and faithfully.

Henry E. Brown, President  
The Joymen Club of Atlanta

### Mutual Federal Savings Bank of Atlanta

In the selection of directors for a financial institution, persons recommended are considered for the qualities they possess, such as character, integrity, honesty and expected in-kind contributions.

Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Association of Atlanta elected John W. Lawton to its Board of Directors where he served actively and admirably for a decade.

In 1991, John W. Lawton was recognized for his positive contributions to the association and subsequently elected Director Emeritus. He served in this capacity through the corporate name change to Mutual Federal Savings Bank of Atlanta in 1995, and until illness prevented him from attending meetings.

The Directors, Officers and Staff extend sincere sympathy to Mrs. Anne Lawton and other members of the family. May light perpetually shine upon the deceased

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### Eta Omega Chapter - Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

John W. Lawton gave many years of loyal, devoted and dedicated service to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Most of this service was rendered through Eta Omega Chapter in Atlanta. Brother Lawton truly exemplified the Four Cardinal Principles in which our Fraternity is grounded. He was a **MAN** of conviction who was reliable, dependable, and honest. He was a Brother who was **SCHOLARLY** - he spent a significant portion of his life in the field of education. He was a **PERSEVERING** Brother — once he started a task he saw it through, and did so in a first class manner. He was an **UPLIFTING** Brother — he often provided UPLIFT to those around him. Brother Lawton was an outstanding Brother and a true Friend. There is no doubt that he is now with our Supreme Basileus in Omega Chapter. Brother Lawton, you will be missed by us all!!



## **From The Fort Benning Reception Alumni (The Benningites)**

From 1941 - 1946 the U.S. was engaged in World War II. Many young women and men were called to serve in the Armed Forces. The Reception Center at Fort Benning was one of the Army Installations set up to recruit, classify and assign these young inductees to various camps throughout the United States.

The late John Lawton was one of the many soldiers stationed at the Reception Center. This was a unique unit of men and women from all walks of life — college professors, teachers, Social/Federal and other workers.

After our discharge from the Army, we maintained communication through a newsletter written by Leonard in Knoxville, Tennessee. Our first annual reunion was held in 1979 in Atlanta.

Unfortunately, John was not physically able to attend the Golden Anniversary Celebration held in Columbus this year. His "buddies" missed him. Now John has departed this earth. His Army "Buddies" say farewell, farewell, farewell.

John Merkersen  
President  
Fort Benning Alumni Chapter

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### **Tribute to Lion Lawton Atlanta Metro Lions Club**

From the founding meeting through chartering and club development, John Lawton was an enthusiastic member of Atlanta Metro Lions who became the club's second president. He was always ready to serve, to work, to follow or to lead. During his presidency, Lionism increased both in membership and in service to our community. John will be missed, not only by Atlanta Metro Lions but by our district, our state, and Lions everywhere.

## **Hallbearers**

Joshua Butler  
Fletcher Coombs  
William M. Marshall

Preston McCoy  
Albert Wardlaw  
Samuel Wilson

## **Honorary Hallbearers**

Atlanta Metro Lions Club  
Atlanta Senior Golfers  
The Benningites  
The Joymen  
Eta Omega Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
Pine Acres Town and Country Club  
Board of Directors, Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Bank

## **Flower Bearers**

Sallie Atkins  
Gloria W. Butler  
Maria Gregory

Mary B. Head  
Patricia Heard  
Freda B. Jones

## **Honorary Flower Bearers**

Atlanta Chapter Continentals Society, Inc.  
Atlanta Suburban Alumnae Chapter  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
The Benningettes  
The Joymen's Wives

## **Acknowledgement**

The family is sincerely grateful for the prayers, the very warm expressions of love, sympathy and kindnesses extended during this period of bereavement.