



Mr. Clifton "Bro" Lemelle

September 7, 1935 - February 3, 2021

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Micah 6:8

Clifton Louis Lemelle Sr., was born on September 7, 1935 to the late Elena Laws and Joseph Lemelle in Iota, Louisiana. On Wednesday, February 3, 2021 he quietly slipped away from time to eternity at 9:06 p.m.

He accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at the New Zion Baptist Church by Rev Joshua G. Frank, Sr. He was educated in the public schools of Eunice and graduated salutatorian from Charles Drew High in 1955. He matriculated to Grambling College and received his B.S degree with a major in Physical Education and minor in Social Studies. He furthered his studies at Southern University, Baton Rouge and obtained a Masters of Education in 1970. He also did further studies at University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, LA and again Southern University to attain his Masters +30 in 1972. On October 7, 1961, he united with Josie Parker and to this union three children were born. After the death of Josie, he met and married Cecile Chavis on December 24, 2001.

During his 37-year tenure in education, he worked in many capacities: teacher, coach, athletic director, assistant principal, acting principal, and coordinator. His other affiliations in education consisted of: President of the J.K. Haynes Foundation and Legal Defense Fund, Inc., President of the Child Development Council of Acadiana, State of Louisiana Commission on Teacher

Evaluation and Certification, Chairman of the St. Landry Parish Bi-Racial Committee and the St. Landry Parish Education Association. Other affiliations include: Past President of St. Landry Federal Credit Union, Past Chairman of the St. Landry Parish N.A.A.C.P Education and Executive Committee, Vice President of the State of Louisiana Commission on Human Rights, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and Past President of Grambling University National Alumni Association.

Mr. Lemelle was a member of the New Zion Baptist Church, serving faithfully in the Male Chorus, the Deacon Board, the Sunday School, and as “Minister of Music”.

He was preceded in death by his parents; six sisters, Elizabeth, Sadie, Virginia, Zoia, Josie and Ida; and one brother, Zackarie.

Clifton will forever live in the hearts of his wife, Cecile; his children, Mellanie and Chad (Fran) of Eunice, LA; Clifton Jr. (Myesha) of Baton Rouge, LA; Donna (Vincent) and Johnny of Opelousas, LA.; eleven (11) grandchildren; three (3) great -grandchildren; one sister, Adeline Evans; one sister-in-law, Lois Parker of New Orleans; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday, February 6, 2021 at New Zion Baptist Church in Eunice, LA. Viewing will begin at 9:30 AM. Interment will be in Southwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Jennings, LA on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 10:00 AM.

Share words of comfort with the family at www.williamsfuneralhomes.net

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Williams Funeral Home of Opelousas, 337-942-2037.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Clifton "Bro" Lemelle*

January 28, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ *Condolences and prayers to his family. May he RIP*



Mary Ventress - February 23, 2021 at 03:07 AM



“ *Condolences to his family and may his soul rest in peace!*

Elinor Eaglin - February 13, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ *Catherine Watson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clifton "Bro" Lemelle*



Catherine Watson - February 11, 2021 at 04:53 PM

BW

“ *My Deepest Prayers and Condolences to the Lemelle Family. Cecille, May God give you Comforting, and Strengthening Grace to be aided as well as aid others in this most difficult time.* 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏💔



Brenda Green n Wil'Leah - February 11, 2021 at 11:24 AM

SW

“ *I feel honored to have known Clifton and his lovely wife Cecile. I have been a guest in their home on several occasions. I found them both to be very gracious and hospitable. They were also fun to be with.*

Sanford Wood - February 11, 2021 at 10:24 AM

LB

“ *Lela Johnson Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clifton "Bro" Lemelle*



Lela Johnson Brown - February 10, 2021 at 08:20 PM

BA

“ I didn't meet Bro until he was retired and at times I was in awe of his ability to command an audience as he presided like a colossus at school board meetings I covered as a reporter. His voice was magnetic and his opinions resonated throughout the meeting room. He had that dominating presence that I will never forget He was unafraid of his audience and you quickly became keenly aware that those in the meeting were certainly paying attention to what he had to say.

He and I subsequently engaged in many conversations about race relations and racial injustices in the parish and beyond. I respected him and enjoyed our exchanges and his views because I knew they were always from the heart and that he was just in his own way, keeping things real.

As long as I have a memory I will never forget Bro, his laugh, his cynicism and attitude toward life and the political intricacy that abounds parish wide.

Godspeed Bro and as you travel through eternity remember the salute you deserve from all of us.

Bobby Ardoin - February 10, 2021 at 10:23 AM

LL

“ Linda Logan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clifton "Bro" Lemelle



Linda Logan - February 09, 2021 at 03:56 PM

BR

“ My deepest condolences to the Lemelle family. May "God" keep you all in "His Perfect Peace" during this time. Remembering Coach Lemelle when he attended one of our Class Reunions in Opelousas, LA some years ago. Barbara Rose - Class of 1970.



Barbara Rose - February 09, 2021 at 02:27 PM

MP

“ M/M Joseph Payne lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clifton "Bro" Lemelle



M/M Joseph Payne - February 08, 2021 at 11:19 PM

DK

“ My deepest condolences to the Lemelle family. Coach Lemelle was one great teacher and coach. He will be greatly miss. May he RIP. Dorothy Tyler King & Family. Mukilteo, Washington

Dorothy Tyler King - February 07, 2021 at 01:17 AM

LT

Deepest condolences to the family

lois thomas - February 09, 2021 at 04:21 PM



Our deepest sympathy to the family of Clifton "Bro" Lemelle. Prayers are going for the family.

Catherine Watson - February 11, 2021 at 04:52 PM

EB

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the family.
Praying that God gives you all the strength
needed to get thru this difficult time.*



Ester Bazile - February 06, 2021 at 07:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of Mr. Clifton "Bro" Lemelle.*



February 06, 2021 at 06:05 PM

HG

“ *Coach speaking for that great team of 1967,68 word cannot
Express how you help us to become great men and Citizens, thank
you. To the family your pain is ours also, may God bless you and
keep you Is my prayer.*

Hosea Gradney - Captain

Hosea Gradney - February 06, 2021 at 05:21 PM

JC

“ *My Dearest Cecile and family,
You have my sincerest sympathies. The service and tributes were so fitting because so many of us experienced them personally and his abounding love was ever present. He never met a stranger and drew all in. I know that he is in loving arms of so many who went before him.
The work of his hands surely will continue to speak for him for years to come.*

*With heartfelt love
Julie Chenier*

Julie Chenier - February 06, 2021 at 01:46 PM

BP

“ *Barbara Washington Prudhomme lit a candle
in memory of Mr. Clifton "Bro" Lemelle*



Barbara Washington Prudhomme - February 06, 2021 at 01:40 PM

SH

“ *Cecile & family. So sorry for the loss of your loved one.
Sending hugs and my deepest condolences.
Love, Sheila Lemelle Love*

Sheila - February 06, 2021 at 11:48 AM



“ I'm sending my deepest condolences to the family. It's been a long time since I have seen many of you. To refresh your memory, I am the eldest daughter of Clayton and Theresa Lemelle from California. My prayers are with you for healing and strength. May he rest in peace and in God's arms. Peace and Blessings, Marie Lemelle, Glendale, CA



Marie Lemelle - February 06, 2021 at 11:31 AM

VJ

“ Dear Ms. Lemelle,

It is with a heavy heart that Keith and I extend our sincere condolences to you and your family in the passing of Mr. Lemelle our dearest friend. He will truly be missed! Please know that your loss is our loss. Our prayers are with you as we go through this difficult time together. We will treasure forever his love for laughter and loyalty to Grambling State University. We spent so many hours working together promoting and uplifting our Dear Grambling! All of which we did with a SMILE!

Love You Forever,

Keith & Veronica Johnson Williams

*Veronica - Former Grambling University National Alumni Board of Directors Business Manager & Secretary
Houston, Texas*



Veronica Johnson - February 05, 2021 at 11:58 PM

AR

“ Coach, we will miss you. We had so much fun at the Class of '79 Reunion. RIP. You will forever be in our hearts,

Annette Rosette



Annette Rosette - February 05, 2021 at 11:50 PM

NR

“ To Cile and the Lemelle’s family. With our deepest condolences. Our prayers are with you. Coach touched many lives in different ways. He has taken a part of many with him. Rest In Peace. Norma and Ricky Reed

Norma Dominick Reed - February 05, 2021 at 09:00 PM

JF

“ My Deepest Condolences to the family. What a brilliant educator and every other role he stood in. He loved everything that had to do with teaching children. He will sorely missed.

Jacinta Frank

*Daughter of Nathan T-Bud Frank & Irma Mae (Comeaux) Frank
Daughter: Goretti Fannellia (Frank) Fontenot. (Deceased)*

Jacinta Frank - February 05, 2021 at 07:32 PM

AT

“ Mr. Lemelle was my homeroom teacher at Paul L.Dumbar High School class of 1965 (his first class). Words cannot express what he meant to us. He was not just our teacher, he was our life coach. He loved us and let us know he was there for us and that he would do anything in his power to help us as long as we were right. To his family, Cecile and the children our prayers and condolences are with you. Thank God that he blessed us to have a "Bro Lemelle in our lives and so we can say that his life is" a chapter completed, a page turned, a life well-lived and a rest well earned".

Avirda Mingo Thomas

Alvirda M. Thomas - February 05, 2021 at 05:46 PM

CT

A life well lived and to him we are honored to have known him...at our most famous Dunbar High school....He was a great part of our lives then and after Dunbar.. Our deepest sympathy to the family...

Cynthia Glaze-Matthews, Houston Tx. - February 06, 2021 at 09:18 AM

PT

“ *Memory of a great teacher coach and mentor for all always had everyone best interests at heart another great icon prayers up for the family Lean on the lord for your strength family and friends will always have good memories of coach Patricia A Trent and family*



Patricia A Trent - February 05, 2021 at 05:28 PM

SP

“ *Sending My Condolences to The Family of Bro Lemelle. I couldn't wait for our Black History Programs and other different mentoring programs we would have at East Jr. High that he would Speak for. You Will Be Greatly Missed in a lot of Areas.* 🙏🙏🙏



Shala Rene Pickney - February 05, 2021 at 03:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Clifton "Bro" Lemelle.*



February 05, 2021 at 02:55 PM

AT

“ Coach Lemelle, who coached us in sports ,but mainly he coached us in life. I was one of his students, he looked after us like we were family on the ball field, in the classroom and anywhere he would see us." Thank you Coach" A good man, that will be solely missed on this earth. My deepest condolences to the Lemelle family and may God bless you all in this hour of sadness.

*Class of 71 (PLD/OHS)
Andra Thompson*

Andra Thompson - February 05, 2021 at 02:50 PM

ED

“ To the Lemelle Family, we offer our deepest sympathy in your loss of your love one. I Ervin Dominick was his student at Paul L Dunbar High School in Washington,La.He the type of person who cared about your appearance,education,general well being and respect.He will be truly missed.Keep GOD FIRST.



ervin dominick - February 05, 2021 at 12:41 PM

JM

“ Lemelle family you have our condolences.Praying for the family.The loss of Mr Lemelle hurt me because I knew him for years.He was a man that would help anyone.Joyce Gales/Curley Milburn.

Joyce/Curley Milburn - February 05, 2021 at 12:13 PM

BT

“ My Dear Cecile and the Lemelle family, I am at loss for words during this sorrowful time. Please know that I am thinking of you and praying for peace and comfort.



Barbara W Thomas - February 05, 2021 at 10:37 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. Clifton "Bro" Lemelle.



February 05, 2021 at 09:35 AM

BL

“ We are sending our deepest condolance to Bro Lemelle family and friends. Praying your hearts are comfort in God's peace.

Beverly Lewis
And family



Beverly Lewis - February 05, 2021 at 09:20 AM

CB

“ Coach was a great influence on my life he treated my like a son and a mentor I learned a lot from him and was proud tol play basketball for him I just wish we could have brought him a trophy back home

Charles K Bennett - February 05, 2021 at 07:53 AM

LG

“ My prayers and my deepest condolences to my cousin Cecile and the Chavis family and The Lemelle family as they go thru the stages of grief. “May the Lord bless them and keep them and may His Protection be around them like a shield as they maneuver thru this pandemic. Keep them safe and healthy in their coming in and going out as they bury their loved one. Peace Be Still. Give them supernatural strength! IJNAmen”. 🙏🙏💪🌺🕊️

Lois Gallien - February 05, 2021 at 07:29 AM

KJ

“ My condolences to the family, i've cared for him and got to know him!❤️

Kierra Jackson - February 04, 2021 at 10:08 PM

SS

“ Heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bro. Lemelle.



sandra smith - February 04, 2021 at 09:53 PM

BT

It is my deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of coach Lemelle from my family to yours prayers are with you during these times of bereavement may God bless you and keep you in his loving arms and protection

Burnell W. Times - February 05, 2021 at 10:34 AM

CS

“ Coach Lemelle was such an inspiration to me my entire life from when he'd drive me and the others home after some of the basketball practices in his little blue car, to the time he joined the WHS class of 1974 at our 40th and 42nd Year Class Reunions. Next to my father, Mason Smith Sr, it was Coach Lemelle who impacted my life the most. I loved Coach Lemelle. May he rest eternally in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Charles R. Smith, Class of 1974, Washington High School, Wash, LA.

Charles R. Smith - February 04, 2021 at 08:56 PM

RF

“ Ronald Zachery & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Clifton "Bro" Lemelle



Ronald Zachery & Family - February 04, 2021 at 08:53 PM

CM

Mr. Clifton Lemelle was a wonderful and unique individual. He was a teacher @ Paul L. Dunbar in Washington, La. where I went to school. I want to extend my condolences to his family and friends, May he RIH❤️ His shoes will be hard to fill.

Cheryl Milburn - February 05, 2021 at 05:08 PM

SE

“ Shirley Eaglin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clifton "Bro" Lemelle



Shirley Eaglin - February 04, 2021 at 08:03 PM

OK

“ *Mr. Clifton Lemelle was my High School Homeroom Teacher at Paul L. Dunbar High, (Eagles), class of 1969. He wanted success and the best for each of his students! I had such respect for Mr. Lemelle!! I offer my sincere condolences and Prayers to his family! He's now resting from his labor! May God Bless and strengthen you!! Orelia Smith Kelly*

Orelia Smith Kelly - February 04, 2021 at 07:57 PM

MS

“ *My fondest memory was his high school message to me in my 1972 Washington High “Memory Book,” where he encouraged me to continue on my path to success, and if I did, my future would be a breeze. My heart is swelled with sadness in the passing of my teacher, Coach, and friend, but he’s home now and that’s comforting to all of us at this time of heartfelt bereavement.*

Matthews Smith, Class of 1972

Matthews Smith - February 04, 2021 at 07:25 PM



“ *The Father that was there for me in high school. You will still live on in my Heart. Thanks You!*

Alton Shelvin - February 04, 2021 at 07:20 PM