



Lillian Frances Lazenberry Martin

March 10, 1928 - September 13, 2017

Lillian Frances Lazenberry Martin passed away peacefully, on Wednesday September 13, 2017, she was born Lillian Frances Warmesley on March 10, 1928 in Pleasant Hill, LA to Kelly Warmesley and Joanna (Price) Warmesley. Lillian was an active member in the community, she was involved in politics and believed that communication was the key to understanding. Among many other things she was a member of the Minnesota Press Club and wrote a weekly column for 32 years in the Twin Cities Courier, which was a local African-American newspaper from 1966 – 1986, she retired from First National Bank in 1984, Served a 6-year term on the Minnesota Public Utility Commission from 1978-1984, was an Interstate Commerce Committee Regional Chairperson. Lillian believed in human rights and served on the Minnesota Human Rights Council. She also believed in supporting the education and empowerment for those who may not have the opportunities that others take for granted, she served 32 years on the Board of Directors of the Twin Cities Opportunities Industrialization Center (TCOIC) currently known as Summit Academy. The Summit Academy is an “educational and vocational training center that empowers adults and prepares youth residing in depressed neighborhoods in the Twin Cities to become educated, employed contributing members of the community.” (<http://www.saoic.org>)

Lillian is preceded in death by parents, Joanna (Price) and Kelly Warmesley; sister, Retha Davis; brothers, Maurice, Emmett Joseph (Joe), Arkenny, and Marcell.

She is survived by her husband Dr. George R. Martin; daughters, Cheryl Warren (John) Austion, Monica (Andrew) Davis, Patricia (Leon) Miller; sons, John Warren Jr., Carl Warren, Todd (Becky) Warren; step families, a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren; and brother, Jerry Warmesley.

On Monday, October 2nd the visitation for the family will be from 9:00am-10:30am at Washburn McReavy Minneapolis. Then at the Lakewood Chapel, 3600 Hennepin Ave in Minneapolis the visitation for the public will be from 11 am and the service will follow at 12 noon.

In lieu of memorials, please consider making a donation to support the Summit Academy

<https://onemission.fund/support/summit-academy-oic/?shopfor=104690>

Tribute Wall

LL

“ Dear Family of Lillian Frances Lazenberry Martin. I did not know your mother. I am an African American Studies scholar and my research on Black Republicans during the civil rights era led me to columns written by Lillian Warren. She was undoubtedly, a freedom fighter, and she left a wonderful legacy that disrupts common narratives about Black politics and the U.S. political system. I was hoping to have a chance to meet her. I am so sad to find this news. May her life and legacy continue to inspire us all for generations to come. God bless you all. -- La TaSha Levy (University of Washington-Seattle)

La TaSha Levy - February 27, 2018 at 12:38 AM

PA

Thank you so much. Her legacy lives on in many of her grandchildren.

Pat - June 29, 2018 at 07:28 PM

LL

I would love to speak to your family about her political work and contributions. I was hoping to interview her for my research. I teach African American history and culture at the University of Washington-Seattle. I would love to center her work in my scholarship on Black politics. Please email me if you're interested. At some point, I want to make a trip to Twin Cities to conduct archival research. Speaking to you would be invaluable. From what I've gathered so far, she was an excellent model of a leader and freedom fighter, and the scholarship in Black Studies needs to reflect her contributions.

My email is dr.tasha38@gmail.com. I hope your family are doing well since her passing.

LaTaSha Levy - November 12, 2018 at 03:49 PM

JB

“ At this point, it's possible that all of the wonderful tributes about Lillian and the expressions of sympathy to her wonderful family leave little to add. Nevertheless, at this time I'm ready to acknowledge reality and feel able to express my feelings about Lillian.



When I met Lillian shortly after moving to Minneapolis in 1973 she took me under her wing and was the significant factor in my becoming acclimated to life in the Twin Cities.

I was proud she was considered my adopted Mom. Our friendship continued after she moved to Seattle where I've enjoyed living for 30 years due to Lillian's encouraging me to pursue a position here. She knew Seattle, besides Minneapolis, had always been my city of choice. My fondest memories include the visit she and Dr. Martin paid to our home during a vacation trip to Seattle. Lillian was a community leader, consummate professional, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. There have been few days since I was informed of her passing that I haven't thought of Lillian and her family to whom I send belated condolences. Lillian may be gone, but she will always be in my thoughts.

J. Paul Blake
Renton, WA.

J. Paul Blake - February 23, 2018 at 12:13 AM

PA

Thank you so much for your words.

Dr. Martin just passed on March 13, 2018. My mom will have so many love ones to greet.

Pat - June 29, 2018 at 07:25 PM

CM

“ It is truly wonderful to have something to stand on, a place to start, a strong foundation. Lillian was that for me. She explained the answers to my questions, shed light on ideas, and cleared paths for me to tread. At age 18, at the Minneapolis Urban League in 1964, Lillian was my mentor. She encouraged me and taught me the importance of commitment and focus. Lillian was a woman who dared to lead. She was also a woman of great faith and character. She committed her life to leadership and service in her community. And she showed me in ways not spoken how to love and honor God. Many of us who knew her have been impacted by her accomplishments and her achievements resonate in our lives. I am truly honored to have known her, to have been supported by her, to have been lifted up by her. And here in this day, in this hour, I give God thanks.

Cheryl Slaughter Moses - October 02, 2017 at 03:21 PM

PA

Thank you for your kind words.

Pat - June 29, 2018 at 07:29 PM

JD

“ J'net, Adrianna, Demitri, Janne and James Dawson purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Lillian Frances Lazenberry Martin .



J'net, Adrianna, Demitri, Janne and James Dawson - October 02, 2017 at 06:38 AM

LB

“ *Larry Bredehoeft lit a candle in memory of Lillian Frances Lazenberry Martin*



Larry Bredehoeft - September 30, 2017 at 10:39 PM

AD

“ *Certainly all of the Davis family and many others know that "Aunt Lil" was a very hard charger, ambitious, highly talented, motivating, and supportive woman who done all she could do to raise and support her family (single-highhandedly). She also was a leader who supported and provided her assistant to various others, groups, agencies, and organizations. RIP Mother Lillian F. (Warren) Lazenberry Martin. Certainly your legacy and memory will live on. May the good Lord bless and reward you with that mansion on high until we meet again.*



Andrew A. Davis - September 26, 2017 at 02:42 AM

AF

“ *April R Frantzen purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Lillian Frances Lazenberry Martin .*



April R Frantzen - September 25, 2017 at 03:05 PM

RB

“ *Lillian Warren was great!! She was very active in the political wars during my time in the U.S. Senate and of great help to me. She was a smart woman who worked very hard; she knew just about everyone; she had excellent judgment so I relied upon her.*

Lillian had a good long life and she gave back and achieved much for her family, her community and country. As her family notes in their message below, she was a strong family leader and dearly loved by those close to her. What a wonderful record of achievement she leaves behind.

*Rudy Boschwitz
U.S. Senator (R., MN 1978-1991)
U.S. Ambassador to the UN Commission
on Human Rights (2005)
President G.H.W. Bush'd Emissary to
Ethiopia (1991)*

Rudy Boschwitz - September 22, 2017 at 07:33 PM

CD

“ Grandmother Lillian is the one who I respect most in this world. I fondly remember how...

She was interested in her grandchildren's talents and career goals.

She once spoke to me one on one prophetic words of my success, and she has not been wrong.

She promoted healthy eating, as she was the only one I knew who ate beets with dinner.

She inspired me to lose weight and my promise to her was a big motivator for me.

She would send the family Christmas cards with money or a gift card.

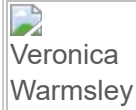
Curtis Davis - September 21, 2017 at 08:35 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Lillian Frances Lazenberry Martin .



September 21, 2017 at 04:02 PM



Veronica Warsley

“ I love you Aunt Lillian. I will miss you! You have been such an inspiration to me. Very classy, smart, intelligent woman. We have had many deep discussions that has helped me in life. You made me laugh and even cry and you would say i look like you 😭 and encouraged me. Thank you for helping to raise Dad, I know that was a challenge! You will be missed auntie. R.I.P.



Veronica Warsley - September 21, 2017 at 09:05 AM



BC

“ My Aunt Lillion was my role model. I looked up to her a memory that stood out about her is when we would meet for lunch sometime. When I would stop by her house for a visit, she would always tell me: "know your worth. Stop dating men for their looks, and date someone that is doing something (in life) for themselves that will treat you like a lady with respect. " Then I started to upgrade my self-confidence with men.....until I married the one.

BONNITA Warsley Carruthers - September 20, 2017 at 10:55 PM



TM

Ms. Lillian was a strong dynamic lady who was quite intelligent and articulate. She exuded class and femininity, and yet she could command a room with a smile and her soft spoken voice. As a child I was in awe of her. My heartfelt condolences go out to her entire family and friends.. RIH

Teresa mcduffie - September 21, 2017 at 02:03 PM



BK

John Jr., Carl. and family of Lillian: Condolences on the loss of a unique and accomplished lady! Boyd Koehler, Professor Emeritus, Augsburg College

boyd koehler - September 24, 2017 at 11:29 AM