



GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 1998

REVEREND DR. TOMMY L. LEWIS, an Alabama native, completed his elementary and secondary education in the Bessemer Public School system. He further matriculated at Booker T. Washington Business College in Birmingham. Dr. Lewis was inducted into the armed forces. He proudly served his country in the Vietnam War and received an Honorable Discharge.

Upon his call into the ministry, Dr. Lewis studied at Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College in Birmingham and Universal Bible Institute in Brunswick, Georgia earning a BA, BTh and Master of Divinity Degrees respectively. In recognition of his outstanding leadership accomplishments and capabilities, he has been awarded two honorary doctorate degrees - one from Universal Bible Institute and one from Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College.

Dr. Lewis has a long history of service as a pastor. In 1982, he was commissioned by God to serve as senior pastor of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Pratt City, Alabama. Under his leadership, the church has experienced phenomenal growth. Bethel has erected a new sanctuary and built a Family Life Center, which aids in the restoration of families in the community. The church was destroyed by a tornado in April 2011, and Dr. Lewis has led in its rebuilding. He has traveled and preached extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Dr. Lewis has held several leadership positions with numerous religious and civic organizations across the country including the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., Alabama Baptist State Convention, Birmingham Metropolitan Baptist Ministerial Conference and the SCLC.

Community minded, Pastor Lewis is involved in numerous affairs vital to the progress of Birmingham. He was appointed to serve on the Jefferson County Transit Authority. While Chairman of the Board, groundbreaking service for the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Inter-modal Transfer Facility was held on March 26, 1988.

Numerous awards and accolades have been bestowed upon Dr. Lewis, such as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Aide De Camp; Alabama Militia; among the Top Ten Ministers, American Ministries Association; Outstanding Young Men of America (1981) and the National Clergy Award. Mayor Richard Arrington proclaimed Sunday, March 9, 1986, as Reverend T. L. Lewis Day.