

Lewis John Tatem obituary



Dr. Lewis John Donald Tatem was born October 24, 1958, in Salisbury Maryland to the Reverend Dr. Samuel Tatem and Kerry Mona Tatem.

When Lewis was in grade school he was academically well beyond the curriculum and was identified as gifted. He was recommended to attend the private college preparatory school, the Franklin School (now known as the Dwight School) in New York City. He graduated in the class of 1976 and received his bachelor's in economics at Columbia University. He subsequently earned his master's degree in economics from Rutgers University and his PhD in Economics from Cornell University.

Lewis met his wife Linda Thorn (who preceded him in death July 12, 2022) while attending Columbia University and their union was for 41 years. From this union they have two daughters Kerry and Geneva.

For more than 26 years, Lewis applied the tools of economic analysis and development as a technical expert, advisor, manager, and leader with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). His technical experience had been rounded out with office management and operations, human resource management, strategic planning, and program design. Throughout Lewis' years with USAID, he served in Central Asia, Iraq, Haiti, and Jordan. These overseas assignments included transition economies, fragile states, conflict and post conflict environments, and resource rich and poor economies. Lewis worked closely with host country governments, the private sector, and the donor community to help these countries move closer to self-reliance. Lewis's assignments demonstrated how he successfully navigated complex issues, led diverse teams of technical experts, and developed innovative approaches that build sustainable results into assistance programs.

Lewis was an adjunct professor of economics at American University and George Washington University. He was a voracious reader with a vast knowledge of world and current events. He loved cooking, especially barbecuing. Lewis also loved all genres of music, but especially jazz and pop tunes. Both reminded him of his college days as a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated.

While in graduate school Lewis committed his life to serve the Lord. Upon graduation he joined and became an active member of Asbury United Methodist Church, Washington D.C. Upon receiving his foreign assignments, he either found a church to worship or he would gather friends for worship. When he returned to the United States, he joined Calloway United Methodist church where he was chairperson of the finance committee.

Lewis departed this life on September 10, 2023. He leaves to cherish his memories two children (Kerry and Geneva), five siblings (Samuel III, Edward, Edwin, Weston, and Geneva), three sisters in law (Marcia, Milagros, and Margie) six nieces and nephews (Megan, Edward II, Samuel IV, Estevan, Isabela, and Alma), and a beloved cousin Beatrice.

To send a flower arrangement or to plant trees in memory of **Dr. Lewis John Tatem**, please [click here to visit our Sympathy Store](#). [Memorial Donation](#)

Services: **Saturday, September 23, 2023**, Visitation: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, and Funeral Service, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM, at the **Calloway Church**, 5000 Langston Blvd., Arlington, VA 22207.