

Elgin M. Lowe Sr., Suffolk Educator, Dies

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SUFFOLK — Elgin M. Lowe Sr. of 203 Maple Street, retired educator and prominent churchman, died Thursday Jan. 20, 2000.

Mr. Lowe, a native of Suffolk, was the husband of Mrs. Lois B. Lowe. He retired from Suffolk Public Schools in 1976 after 42 years in education. During his tenure, he was the highest-ranking black in Suffolk Public Schools.

Among his notable accomplishments was his appointment in 1964 to the Board of Visitors of Virginia State College University. In 1968, he was elected rector of the board and was unanimously re-elected in 1970. Mr. Lowe was the first black school principal in Virginia to hold such a position.

Mr. Lowe was a former president of the Eastern Virginia Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ. He was the first black layman to be elected to lead the organization of 79 churches and 16,000 members.

Mr. Lowe was co-chairman of the Rehabilitative School Board Authority of Virginia. The board is responsible for educational services in the Virginia prisons. He was a former member of the Board of Directors of Western Tidewater Mental Health and Retardation Board and Treasurer of the Tidewater Occupational Center Board of Directors.

Mr. Lowe was member, deacon and trustee of the Chapel Grove United Church in Windsor. He was a former consultant on stewardship for the United Churches of the Southern Conference and a former contributor and writer for "Lay Life and Work." He recently published a book, "A Black College at the Crossroads," concerning events that occurred at Virginia State College during his tenure on the board of visitors.

In 1971, Mr. Lowe came to the Suffolk Public School System as principal of Booker T. Washington after several years in Sussex County and many years in Isle of Wight County as a teacher, vocational teacher and later as principal of George Tyler (combined) School.

Mr. Lowe was listed in "Who's Who in the South and Southeast" in 1961, "Who's Who in Dictionary of International Biographies" in 1963 and "Who's Who in American Education" in 1964.

He was a member of the Suffolk Civic Forum.

Survivors are two daughters, Mrs. Jean Teague of Riverside, Calif., and Miss Sandra M. Lowe of Hampton.; a son, Elgin Lowe II of Richmond; a sister, Mrs. Dainer L. Robinson; a son-in-law, Mr. Hubert Teague; a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Moizelle Lowe; five grandchildren (Mark, Brad, Denise, Marsha, Lance); five great-grandchildren (Benaiah, Ryan, Erin, Jenifer, Justin); a nephew, Calvin; and a niece, Shirley.

A funeral will be conducted on Tuesday Jan. 25 at 1 p.m. at Metropolitan Baptist Church, Suffolk by the Rev. J.J. Ferguson.

The interment will be in Carver Memorial Cemetery in Suffolk. The body will be placed in the church at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Crocker Funeral Home, Suffolk is in charge of arrangements.