

The Extraordinary Life and Times of Walter P. Lomax Jr., M.D.

Walter Pleasant Lomax was the fifth of five children born to Elizabeth Harvey Lomax and Walter Pleasant Lomax Sr. He was born July 31, 1932, at home at 1936 Reed Street in South Philadelphia. He had three older sisters: Gloria Hall Womble, Gertrude Wilkie, and Sarah Cowdery. Walter was the last child born so he held a special place in a very loving family.

South Philadelphia, or better yet, South Philly: How he loved his community and what pride he took in saying that he was from South Philly.

Walter was educated in the Philadelphia public school system. He attended Smith Elementary School, Barrett Junior High School, and Central High School where later in life he was recognized by Central as one of its distinguished alums.

After high school, Walter attended La Salle College (now LaSalle University), and then went on to Hahnemann Medical School. He interned at Albert Einstein Medical Center, Southern Division (Mt. Sinai).

In 1958 he married Beverly Hill who would be his life partner for the next 56 years. They started a family that grew to six children, three girls and three boys.

Walter started his first practice at 1302 S. 18th Street as a solo practitioner. Over the next 30 years he expanded to a 22 physician group; developed Lomax Health Systems (LHS) Inc., a management company concentrating on health care; and Correctional Healthcare Solutions (CHS), which provided health services to correctional facilities around the country.

Walter was given the gift of practicing the Art of Medicine. He sincerely cared and worked very hard to ensure that his patients received the absolute best quality care.

In 1989, LHS joined forces with a firm in Virginia to form Healthcare Management Alternatives, Inc. (HMA). HMA successfully won a Pennsylvania Department of Welfare contract (HealthPASS) to provide health care to Medicaid recipients in South and West Philadelphia. After the contract was awarded, Dr. Lomax was required to sell his five-site group practice and in September 1990 he retired from his distinguished career as a practicing physician. From HMA's success in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, in 1995, AmeriChoice was formed. In 2002, AmeriChoice was sold to United Health Group Company.

Once Walter Lomax retired from practicing medicine, his interests went into active venture capital and real estate investment – and The Lomax Companies was formed with Walter as its Chairman. One of his most passionate business ventures was the formation of WURD Radio, a multimedia enterprise founded in 2002. It is the only

African-American owned talk radio station in Pennsylvania and Walter took great pride in building WURD into a Pennsylvania institution.

Walter Lomax's philanthropic spirit was embodied in the Lomax Family Foundation, which provided funding for eligible non-profit organizations, and programs that promoted the environment, health and wellness, the arts and education in the African-American community.

Walter had strong family ties in King William, Virginia where his parents were born and raised. In 1994, Walter purchased the farm/plantation where his great grandmother was enslaved. There was great pride taken by him and his family in restoring and reviving this beautiful ancestral land.

And then there was Jamaica – the island in the sun where Walter escaped every February. How he enjoyed the warmth, inclusion and friendliness of the Jamaican people.

Walter P. Lomax Jr, M.D. lived a powerful and purposeful life. His legacy lives on through his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren as well as the institutions he supported and loved.