



# NEWSLETTER

Second Edition—Family News

Written and Published by Wayne Lewis (Eley)

November 2015

## Parker-Eley Adopt A Highway

Today is empowering as we embrace the past and envision the future. At this year's 2015 Parker/Eley Family Reunion held in Murfreesboro, and Ahoskie, North Carolina, the announcements made acknowledging the initiative to Adopt A Highway along Mapleton Road had been finalized. The sign as shown below was placed not long after.

Mapleton Road serves as a small two lane thruway providing access for the Parker/Eley/Riddick families and all others for well over a century. Black Friday, November 27, 2015, the day right after Thanksgiving has been designated as the first official clean-up by family members for this initiative.

Being a pipeline to the future for many generations, this area today can rightfully be regarded as, 'hallowed grounds.' Especially since, **"From A Few Came Many,"** migrating across the geographical compass into so many other areas and states.

As *'rising tides sails all ships,'* the need to expand beyond the borders of Mapleton Road and Murfreesboro, NC became inevitable. From the early 1900's now well into the 21st century, generations are still a part of that rising tide.

Born and raised in the state of New Jersey, I trace back not too far to my maternal grandfather, James Eley. He travelled north right off of Mapleton Road, from "Eleytown Road." A place I have always remembered since 1969, now reunited.

*"The best exercise for the heart is to reach down and pick someone up or help hold one another up. It indeed takes on a ripple effect."*



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## **Embracing the Past, Empowered by the Present, and Envisioning the Future**

In Proverbs it says, *Where there is no vision the people shall perish*, and to those who did envision a future we have flourished. Some having migrated north from the south, from the east, moving west.

From the past precisely into the present taking on professions as students of medicine and of law. Law enforcement as well as bankers, men and women of military rank.

Those of the cloth, pastors, preachers, even engineers and teachers. The strength of a tree is not in how high it grows but in how steep it goes, within its firm roots being attached to the ground where it receives its nourishment.

Wrapping itself even stronger around solid rock, growing prosperously upon its stock into the future. Without vision the people shall perish....because of it we all have flourished moving triumphantly from a past of oppression and pain.

Looking ever optimistically beyond any shame, because from the great promise of our ancestors, who insisted, that we shall overcome. Now we stand carrying the torch of tomorrow, a torch that mustn't be dropped for each time it does it leaves a scorch upon the earth and the heels of those who must pick it up.

So let's keep moving forward embracing the past, empowered by the present, envisioning the future. Giving honor that we are still here holding dear to the things that really matters. Gallantly upon the true principles of life which is to survive having faith in the light and the right to go on despite of affliction.

Continue upon the path sharing love today that love finds itself into tomorrow. There are still generations which awaits to be born, who will charge the lack of what they did not find into the account of those who failed to mind that although tomorrow is never promised. *'Wow man!!!'* You may one day hear them say. *'You could at least have opened the door, the rest I would've done myself. Daggone, daggone!!!'*



**From A Few Came Many**

If we could only hear them speak what would they say, for in truth they have already spoken. One of things that could be imagined are voices saying, *'although we are gone, we seek not to be forgotten. Because each time you look and see yourself or each other, there we are. You all are an extension of who we once were, so I hope that we can meet or even meet again one day in eternity rejoicing.*

Just remember that time is fleeting it belongs not to you or me, but it is more of your possession now than ours. So do use it wisely showing love and supporting one another. Time is almost as an illusion, one day it is here and the next it is gone. Remember that we once stood where you stand, so there is no need to mourn.

It is your time now to live and find yourself among the stars and what good is a star that doesn't shine? What good is a tree without its roots, so nourish the roots and we shall work to keep you strong. The roads are paved but the fields must continue to be plowed, so plant seeds of love and watch them grow forever mo.'





Meharry Medical College—Class of 2017

## Medical Student

Maliyah F. Al-Bayan is from New Jersey and is the granddaughter of Dorothy Eley-Lewis and daughter of Wayne Lewis (a/k/a Irshad Al-Bayan). She is a graduate of Hampton University in 2012, magna cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

Maliyah chose to follow her passion after being off one year and accepting the offer at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee in 2013. While at HU as an undergrad she became actively involved as a team leader of the Student Recruitment Team. Treasurer and Chairperson of the fundraising committee of the NJ Pre-Alumni Council and a member of the Golden Key Int'l Honor Society.

Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society, Minority Assoc. for Pre-Medical Students and the Pre-Health Program. During her summers she participated in various summer programs like the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program and the Northeast Regional Alliance Med-Prep Program at the former University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ now apart of Rutgers University of New Jersey.

Today, Maliyah has started her third year as a medical student at Meharry Medical College. After completing her first year she participated in an eight week research project at New York University, This project resulted in a publication in the Journal of Geospatial Health, a study of hypertension with the Dept. of Health at NYU Sch. of Medicine. (Maliyah in photos below; right and left in science research as an Elementary school student.)

*In Loving Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Parker Jr. DDS; Rest in Peace Daughters (Center)*



## Empowering The Present

**Left:** The class of 2017 taking a group photo right after the traditional 'White Coat Ceremony' customary among medical and dentistry schools for medical and dentistry students being awarded their white coats under the Hippocratic Oath. **Below:** Maliyah Al-Bayan displays her NYU research-project at a Medical Fair at Meharry as a second year student.

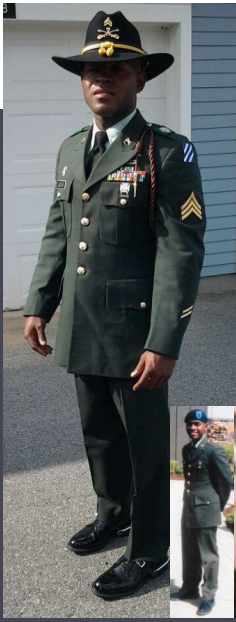


**Below: Maliyah with her Father**  
**What we do to help embrace the past, be empowered by the present, and envision a better future for the generations that now stand upon our shoulders is an obligation.**

**In remembering the words of the United Negro College Fund, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." What better gift can we give after all other gifts have been given except to give the gift of encouragement to believe and go on.**

**We owe it to ourselves as a tribute to our ancestors who fought so diligently to survive. They did by far to breathe free and here we are today.**





## Army Strong

### Sargent Michael Lewis-Williams

Michael is a grandson of the late Eula Eley-Lewis and the son of Thelma Lewis-Neal.

Recruited by his first cousin retired 1st Sargent Al Walker, Felicia's brother, over ten years ago.

He has achieved a great career with 2 Army Commendation Medals, 4 Army Achievement Medals, 3 Army Good Conduct Medals, 1 Nat'l Defense Serv. Medal, 1 Global War on Terr. Expeditionary Medal, 1 Overseas Serv. Ribbon, 1, Combat Action Badge.

He has served in Iraq, So, Korea, and G Army.



Felicia Walker-Benson

## ThisThatBeauty

Felicia is the Editor-in-Chief of ThisThatBeauty, a top-rated blog that revolves around her passion points; beauty, fashion, lifestyle, fitness, food and wine....and most recently— infants and toddlers.

She is also the Social Media Beauty Director for a luxury retailer in New York City, Bergdorf Goodman which is a premier high-end department store in Manhattan.

As a highly sought after beauty authority, Felicia has appeared on the Today Show on NBC network television. She has been featured in numerous publications including; Lucky, Marie Claire, Glamour, Harper's Bazaar, and WWD.

Adding to that list are The New York Times, Ebony, Essence, Elle France just to name a few. Felicia is the daughter of Yvonne Walker and granddaughter of the late Eula Eley-Lewis.

Felicia is also a graduate of Rutgers University in New Jersey in Political Science. Shown here with her younger cousin Myesha after participating in a teenage Beauty Paegent Show as a teenager. She chose to follow the path of her dreams.



# Family Reunion Preparations for 2016 “40th Anniversary”

Preparations for next year’s Family Reunion are currently underway. With nearly nine months of preparations to go in honor of 40 years of celebrations from the very offset in 1976. This years preparations are to welcome all into the state of New Jersey as a family reunion precedent, to be hosted by family locals. Also, looking forward to everyone’s contribution in honor of a 40 year legacy. The welcoming accommodations includes an affordable rate of \$99.00 per night for all double and triple bed occupancies in a very luxuriant Renaissance Hotel located on US Hwy 1 in Woodbridge, NJ. The facility has a free shuttle bus to all local attractions, it is also within walking distance of local shopping plazas, the Woodbridge Shopping Mall and a premier Menlo Park Mall within five to ten miles of the hotel. Numerous restaurants for fine dining or otherwise within the area. We are all planning ahead for the weekend starting Friday, July 1, 2016—Sunday, July 3, 2016. The photos shown are but a few of the plush amenities of the Renaissance Hotel



## Travel Information

The Renaissance Hotel is centrally located in New Jersey near the New Jersey Turnpike exit 11, on US Hwy 1 southbound and within twenty miles of Newark International Airport. (EWR).

Public Transportation from the airport includes the New Jersey Transit train stopping in nearby Edison, NJ with commuter pick up from the hotel shuttle bus or car rental from EWR with a direct route to the hotel via US Hwy 1 & 9 south .

