Gala Luncheon Saturday, June 13, 2009 Reginald F. Lewis Foundation





REGINALD F. LEWIS 1942 - 1993

Reginald F. Lewis broke the glass ceiling and dared to dream. A reluctant role model, celebrated businessman, and the definition of a new generation of black entrepreneurs – Reginald F. Lewis was bold and daring. The Baltimore-born investor worked tirelessly as the first black to enter the high-stakes world of billion-dollar takeovers.

In 1961, Reginald Lewis entered Virginia State University on a football scholarship. But when he was injured and lost his scholarship, he switched to an academic strategy and took on several jobs in order to pay for his schooling.

In 1965, Mr. Lewis entered Harvard Law School - the only person in the school's history to be admitted without submitting an application. He had attended a summer program sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation where he made such an impression that Prof. Frank Sanders, the program's administrator reserved a spot for him in the class of '68.

After graduation from Harvard Law School, Mr. Lewis set up his own Wall Street law firm; Lewis and Clarkson, doing corporate law and structured investments in minority owned businesses and serviced several multinational corporations including General Foods.

A desire to "do the deals myself" led him to start TLC Group. His first successful venture was the \$22.5 million dollar leveraged buyout of McCall Pattern Company. He nursed the company back to health and in 1987, sold McCall realizing a "90 to 1" million-dollar return, as headlined by *The New York Times*.

While the rest of corporate America was still buzzing over the sale of McCall, Mr. Lewis had already chosen a larger target: Beatrice Foods International, a company with 64 holdings in 31 countries. In December 1987 he completed the buyout for \$985 million, the largest buyout ever of overseas assets by an American company.

Lewis' untimely death came at the age of 50 when he succumbed to brain cancer in 1993. His friend, then New York Mayor David Dinkins said, "Reginald Lewis accomplished more in half a century than most of us could ever deem imaginable. And his brilliant career was matched always by a warm and generous heart ... It is said that service to others is the rent we pay on earth. Reg Lewis departed us paid in full."

The Reginald F. Lewis Foundation, which he founded in 1987, has continued his commitment to education and the African American and other communities of color by giving to universities, museums and charities in the United States and the Philippines. In 2002, the Foundation gave \$5 million to endow the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture. The Lewis Museum, created by the Maryland Legislature, opened in June 2005.

Donations to this Gala Luncheon will help the Reginald F. Lewis Museum meet the \$1 million challenge grant from The Eddie C. and S. Sylvia Brown Family Foundation.

For more information, please visit www.reginaldflewis.com

Gala Luncheon
Saturday June 13, 2009
Reginald F. Lewis
Foundation

#### MENU

Lobster with Drawn Butter BBQ Ribettes Spoonbread's Signature Fried Chicken Corn on the Cob Potato Salad Calico Cole Slaw Collard Greens Field Green Salad Jalapeno Corn Bread and Sweet Butter

Lemon Tea Cakes
Peach Cobbler with
Whipped Cream and Mint
Chocolate Covered Strawberries
Ice Cream Cones

Belvedere Grand Cosmopolitan 10 Cane Mojito Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label Terrazas Malbee Terrazas Chardonnay

All beverages compliments of Moët Hennessy

#### PROGRAM

12:30pm Coektails

2pm Buffet Lunch

3pm Award Presentation by Host Committee Chairs Loida Nicolas Lewis Gabriella Morris Lolita Valderrama Savage

Performance by Dance Theater of Harlem

Master of Ceremonies Maurice DuBois

Save the Date: 3rd Gala Luncheon Saturday June 26, 2010



Reginald F. Lewis Award

# Millennium Member of the Reginald F. Lewis Foundation

### R. DONAHUE PEEBLES

Recognized as one of the most successful entrepreneurs in the nation, R. Donahue Peebles is the owner of The Peebles Corporation, the country's largest African American real estate development company with a \$4 billion development portfolio of luxury hotels, high-rise residential and Class A commercial properties and developments in Washington, D.C., New York, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Miami Beach.

The 49 year old has been featured in publications such as *The New York Times*, The *Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, *Black Enterprise* and *Ebony* due to his visionary success. Mr. Peebles appears regularly on CNN, CNBC and FOX to advise on real estate, economic and political issues. He has been profiled on shows such as Neil Cavuto, The Big Idea and Larry King Live as well as on the nationally syndicated "Tom Joyner Morning Show" and "Steve Harvey" radio programs. In May, Forbes listed Mr. Peebles in the top ten of the wealthiest black Americans in the country.

A top-selling author, Mr. Peebles first book, *The Peebles Principles*, distills the lessons he learned on the road to building his successful company and personal fortune. His first-person accounts of his most intriguing deals illustrate the principles that guide Mr. Peebles in all of his transactions. His second book, *The Peebles Path to Real Estate Wealth*, released in September 2008, outlines the fundamental tools for real estate investing and details how to make money in any market.

In addition to serving as CEO of his billion-dollar real estate development firm, Mr. Peebles is a highly sought after speaker.

Raised in Washington, D.C., in a single-parent household, he is an avid supporter of mentoring children and exposing teenagers to the value of entrepreneurship. Mr. Peebles spends time speaking to students around the country to urge and inspire them to pursue careers in business. He has received numerous awards over the last 25 years for his entrepreneurial leadership, community service efforts and development abilities. Mr. Peebles' most recent awards include Entrepreneur of the Year presented by Rev. Jesse Jackson at the 11th annual Wall Street Project Economic Summit; Corporate Citizen Award from One Hundred Black Men of New York; the NV Award for Entrepreneurship; the prestigious Hennessy Privilege Award for extraordinary community contributions; induction to the Martin Luther King International Board of Renaissance Leaders Hall of Fame at Morehouse College in Atlanta; and Community Leader Award from Russell and Danny Simmons' RUSH Philanthropic Arts Foundation at their inaugural Art for Life event in Miami Beach.

Mr. Peebles served as a U.S. House of Representatives page while in high school, sparking a lifelong interest in politics. He has supported politicians on both sides of the aisle and has raised campaign funds for local, state and federal candidates. He currently serves on the National Finance Committee of President Barack Obama.

Last year the Foundation honored Sean "Diddy" Combs with the Reginald F. Lewis Award and Mr. Peebles will continue in the Foundation's tradition of honoring a successfull African American entrepreneur under 50 years of age.

#### LT. COL. (RET.) LEE A. ARCHER, JR.

Lee A. Archer was born and raised in New York City, the son of Lee Archer, Sr. and May Piper Archer. He attended New York City Public Schools and Dewitt Clinton High School.

He received his B.A. at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA); his M.A. at New York University (NYU). He holds an honorary PhD from King College.

Lee joined the Air Force and entered flight training at Tuskegee Army Air Field, graduating as a Fighter Pilot – I Class 43-G (July 1943). He was Cadet Captain of his class. Lt. Lee A Archer joined the 302nd Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group. His P-51 plane was named in the honor of his wife – "Ina the Macon Belle". After shooting down five German Me-109 planes, he earned Flying Ace status. Scoring his first victory on July 18, 1944; he became one of only four "Tripler's" when he destroyed three Me-109s on a single mission. The Tuskegee Airmen never lost a Bomber during their escort missions.

After 29 years of service in the United States Air Force where he held a number of responsible positions world-wide, he joined General Foods Corporation (GF) as a Manager of Urban Affairs (1970). After becoming its Director in 1971, Mr. Archer was appointed President of Vanguard Capital Corporation, a GF Small Business Investment Company. In 1973, he was promoted to Chairman and CEO of Vanguard. In 1975, Lee was now Vice President in General Foods with responsibility for North Street Capital Corp., a Specialized Small Business Investment Company (SSBLC) and was elected full General Foods Corporate Vice President in 1980. As Corporate V.P. his duties were – Chairman of Hudson Commercial Corp. (A GF Venture Capital Co.), North Street Capital Corp and General Foods' Urban Affairs Department.

In 1985 Lee Archer was one of a group led by Reginald Lewis which acquired McCall Pattern Company and then subsequently made a leverage buyout (LBO) of Beatrice International Foods in 1987. It instantly became the largest minority owned and controlled business in the United States. In 1988 Mr. Archer formed Organization Publishing Company and Archer Associates, Ltd. He became a major partner in Genuine Leaf Incorporated, (Africa).

Lee Archer has served of the Board of Directors of Beatrice International Foods, TLQ Financial Holding, Inc. Panel-Light Corp, and the Institute of American Business (IAB), a General Motors Venture Capital Subsidiary. He is active in a number of civic and educational organizations.

Lee Archer lives in Westchester County, New York. He was married to Ina Burdell Archer (deceased); has four children – Lee III (wife Janine), Raymond (wife Jennifer), Roy (wife Venita) and Ina Diane. He is also the proud grandfather of Emily, Amanda (deceased), Alexandra, Gabrielle and Ghylaine.

Last year the Foundation honored Frank and Lolita Savage with the Millennium Membership and Colonel Archer will be a perfect addition to this tribute

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REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM of Maryland African American History & Culture

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