

**BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN**

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF REGINALD LEWIS

AGES 9-12



BOTWC MINI POSING AS
REGINALD LEWIS

REGINALD F. LEWIS



Reginald F. Lewis was born on December 7th, 1942, in Baltimore, Maryland. From an early age, Lewis grew up in a tight-knit family that nurtured a sound education and a strong work ethic.

At just ten years old, Reginald created a delivery route to sell the Afro-American newspaper. With only ten customers his first year, two years later, Reginald watched as his business blossomed to over 100 customers on his route. He later sold the route at a **profit**.

Reginald Lewis worked hard, not only in the classroom but also as an athlete. His determination and courage made him the captain of the football, varsity baseball, and basketball teams. He continued to show **consistency** by attending Virginia State University which is a Historically Black University. While in University, Reginald worked as a photographer's sales assistant, where his **tenacity** continued, and he generated so much business they offered him a partnership. However, in his journal, he wrote about achieving greater things in his future. He did just that, graduating Virginia

State on the dean's list.

In 1965, Lewis received an opportunity to attend a summer school program at Harvard Law School, which introduced a select number of Black students to their legal studies. Leaving such a remarkable impression, Harvard Law School invited him to attend that fall. To this day, Reginald Lewis is the only person to get accepted to Harvard Law School without applying.

After graduating and studying **Corporate Law**, Lewis received a job from one of the top New York Law firms. He then went on to start his Corporate Law firm, where they represented **investors**. After 15 years of practicing corporate law, Lewis decided to start his very own investment company, the TLC Group. In 1992, the company had sales of over \$1.8 billion annually, making it the first black-owned business to generate a billion dollars in annual sales. Reginald Lewis quickly became the first African American to build a billion-dollar company and the richest black man in the 1980s.

Lewis was not only a highly trained corporate lawyer, but he was also a highly passionate freedom fighter for civil rights. Lewis donated large amounts to various African American institutions such as Historically

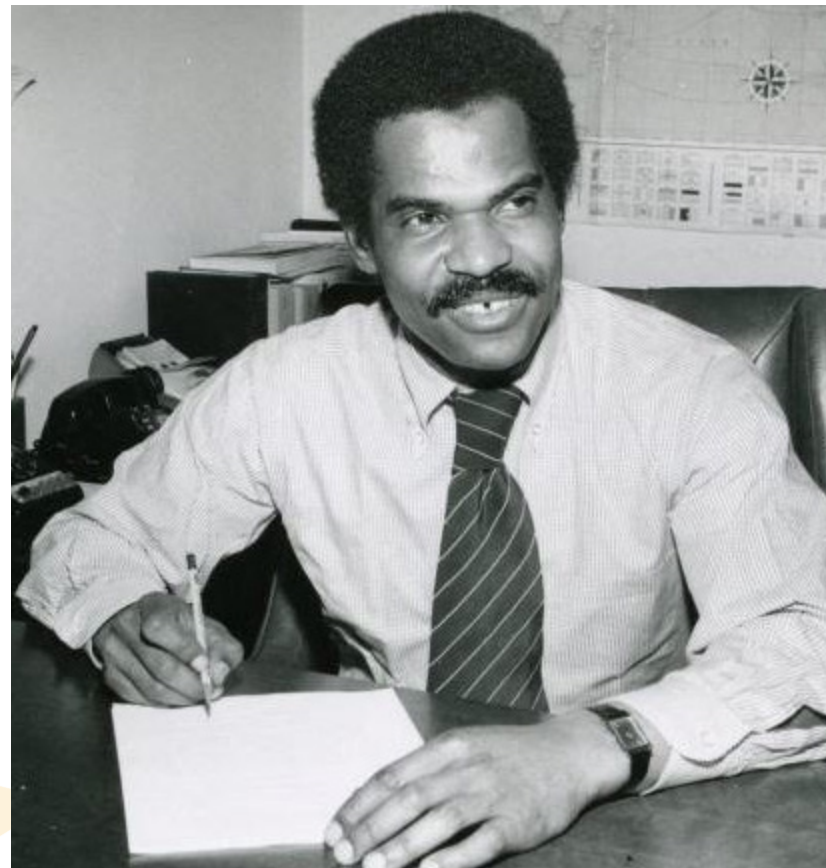


READ & RESPOND

Black Colleges and Universities, homeless shelters, and neighborhood churches.

In 1993 at just 50 years old, Reginald F. Lewis passed away from brain cancer. Today, we still celebrate his legacy in various ways. In 2005, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture opened. His daughter Christina also launched a foundation named All-Star Code that teaches computer science and coding to Black and Brown boys in honor of her dad.

Reginald Lewis's success taught us that it is essential to do the work and not expect things to be handed to us. That pioneering spark of **entrepreneurship** from Reginald Lewis never went out, even in the face of **adversity** and extraordinary obstacles, he accomplished what few were able to do.



1. What was Reginald Lewis' first business venture? Use two pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.

GLOSSARY

Profit: a financial gain.

Consistency: Someone who always behaves in the same way, has the same attitudes towards people or things, or achieves the same level of success in something.

Tenacity: the quality of being very determined.

Adversity: difficulty or misfortune.

Corporate law: law that has to do with business and companies.

Investor: someone who commits money in order to earn a financial return.

Entrepreneurship: a person who organizes and operates a business or businesses.

STEP UP: SET A GOAL!

KEEP GOING.
NO MATTER WHAT.

— REGINALD LEWIS

DIRECTIONS: Using the stair-step below for visual goal-setting, break down your goal into doable steps.

Even at the age of 9, Reginald Lewis had the goal of becoming the richest black man in America. By setting this goal, he put himself on a path that would lead him to success and he began to lay out steps to move him closer towards his goal.

A **short-term** goal is something you want to do in the near future. The near future can mean today, this week, this month, or even this year. A short-term goal is something you want to accomplish soon.

A **long-term goal** is something you want to do further in the future. Long-term goals require time and planning. They are not something you can do this week or even this year. Long-term goals usually take 12 months or more to achieve.

MAKE YOUR GOAL LADDER

- Write down your **DREAM** at the top of the staircase.
- Write down your **FIRST GOAL** at the very bottom of the staircase and the first action towards that goal.
- Create your **SECOND GOAL** and the action towards it.
- Create your **THIRD GOAL** and the action towards it.
- Continue "climbing" the stairs; add dates, drawings, anything that helps motivate you!



DREAM

4

3

2

1

The staircase graphic consists of four steps, each represented by a yellow trapezoidal shape. The steps are numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4 from bottom to top. Each step has several horizontal lines for writing. The top step is labeled 'DREAM' with a crown icon above it. The background features a faint illustration of a person climbing a staircase.

MATH ACTIVITY



DIRECTIONS: Record the total amount of money on the line.

- Reginald bought 2 milkshakes for \$10 each and 3 burgers for \$8 each. How much money did Reginald spend at the restaurant?
- Reginald wanted to spend \$45 on each of his three brothers and spend \$90 on his Grandmother. If he gave the cashier \$300, how much change did he get back?

PLACE VALUE CHART

Billions			Millions			Thousands			Ones		
Hundred Billions	Ten Billions	Billions	One Hundred Millions (100,000,000)	Ten Millions (10,000,000)	Millions (1,000,000)	One Hundred Thousands (100,000)	Ten Thousands (10,000)	Thousands (1,000)	Hundreds (100)	Tens (10)	Ones (1)

- Reginald collects old coins. In his collection, he has 8,883 coins. What is 8,883 rounded to the nearest:
 - Thousand: **9,000** (example)
 - Hundreds:
 - Tens:
- Reginald sold 540,554 newspapers. What is 540,554 rounded to the nearest:
 - Hundred Thousand:
 - Ten Thousand:
 - Thousand:
 - Hundreds:
 - Tens:
- Which symbol makes these sentences true? Use these symbols: < > =

712,453 _____ 721,453 6,124 _____ 6,902
 5,304 _____ 4,952



ANSWERS: 1. Reginald spent \$44 at the restaurant.
 2. Reginald received \$75 back in change.
 3. Hundreds: 8,900 Tens: 8,880
 4. Hundred Thousand: 500,000 Ten Thousand: 540,000 Thousand: 540,000 Hundreds: 540,600 Tens: 540,550
 5. 712,453 < 721,453 6,124 < 6,902 5,304 < 4,952

TAKE THE PLEDGE

I WILL HONOR
THE SACRIFICES OF
MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE
IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE
MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP
OTHERS ALONG
THE WAY.