



## Larry Francis Lebby

September 8, 1950 - July 21, 2019

Larry Francis Lebby was born September 9, 1950, in Denmark, South Carolina to the late Edward Emerson Lebby and the late Irene Barbara Johnson Lebby. He departed this life on July 21, 2019 at Providence Hospital in the presence of loved ones. His early life was spent in Dixiana with his parents and four brothers. He attended the public schools of Lexington County finishing high school at Airport High in 1969 as one of the first students to integrate the school. He developed and honed his artistic skills at Allen University in Columbia and the University of South Carolina, earning a BA in 1973 and a Master of Fine Arts degree in 1976.

His works have been exhibited in numerous museums and galleries like the U.S. Embassy, Manila; The U.S. Rotunda, Washington D.C.; The White House, Washington D.C.; The U.S. Executive Building, Washington D.C.; The World Bank, Washington D.C.; The High Museum, Atlanta, Georgia; The Huntsville Museum, Alabama; The University of Alabama; The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia; The Smithsonian Institution National American Museum; The Columbia Museum of Arts and Sciences; The Ann Jacob Gallery; The David C. Driskell Center; The University of Maryland; The University of North Carolina Museum; The Edison Museum, Fort Myers, Florida; The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African America Culture; The University of South Carolina McKissick Museum; The Moca Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville, Florida; The Tibb Gallery, Washington D.C.;

and The Teatro Club, Rome, Italy.

His most recent exhibit was in Manila, and a number of his works have been collected by such luminaries as Vanessa Williams, Oprah Winfrey, Eddie Murphy, James Earl Jones, Gregory Peck, Roberta Flack, and Toni Braxton. He was most recently commissioned to paint the posthumous portrait of the late Reverend and Senator Clementa Pinckney in 2016.

Larry was a servant to the community and the arts. He served on the Renaissance Foundation Board, was recipient of The University of South Carolina's Distinguished Black Alumni Award, and an involved-member of the Center for Community and Family Transitions Board. He has also served on the board of the South Carolina Diabetes Association, the South Carolina Arts Commission, and the Governor's Task Force for the Arts.

In addition to his parents, Larry was preceded in death by his brothers: Robert Leppy, Gary Leppy, and Michael Leppy; and a sister, Sandra Leppy.

Larry leaves to cherish his memory his wife Gloria Harris Leppy; three daughters: Katrina Long Leppy, Lanier Leppy, and Amanda (Johnny) Warden; two sons: Bakari Francis Harris Leppy and Akida Amani Leppy; three grandchildren, Brittany Chapman, Diamond Robinson, and Emerson Clavaun Anderson Leppy; two brothers: Gerald Wayne Leppy of Dixiana and Kenneth Bernard Leppy of Columbia; two sisters-in-law: Mary P. Leppy of Gaston, SC, and Kathy R. Leppy of Oak Ridge, NC; former sister-in-law Rev. Freddie M. Leppy of West Columbia; one aunt, Kathleen Leppy Faust of Denmark, SC; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

JUL **26.** 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia  
1200 Fontaine Place  
Columbia, SC 29223  
(803) 786-6300  
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Larry Francis Lebbby*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *I purchased my first REAL piece of art from Larry in 1979, If I Show You My Tenderness. I opened an in house art gallery and he was supportive of that venture. I extend my sympathies to him and his family and hold him in my heart as the most creative yet still humble artist I know.*



*Barbara Eikner Thompson and family.*

**Barbara Eikner Thompson** - January 29, 2020 at 08:29 PM

HS

“ As a friend of his cousins Ladoris and Laverne Lebby, and meeting that inquisitive kid from Allen University who borrowed one of my paintings to study when I was an artist at Ft Jackson, to being a neighbor living directly above us, upstairs (apartment) during the same time I served, discovering his skills had exploded , propelling him to the top back in 1972-73. Phenomenal growth, all within a year. The likes I have never seen in my lifetime. This association led him to giving me a work of Lanier (daughter), and becoming a great friend of my wife Susan, this guy exceeded everything I could ever hope to achieve as an artist. I always checked his website, and shocked to learn of his passing a few minutes ago. When I awake my wife tonight, she is going to be lost for words, and will immerse in a deep prayer session for him, she just loved the guy. I regret not having called him recently to jostle the dude for never having stated he was also related to the Braxton clan. Now I will have to do a memorial batik painting for Lanier whom I have not seen since her early years. 8/8/2019

*Henry E. Sumpter, Visual Designs Studio  
Contemporary Batik Master and Friend*

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**Henry E. Sumpter** - August 08, 2019 at 12:32 AM

HE

“ To my Lebby family I am sorry that we have lost a giant in our family; grateful his spirit and great work shall live eternally.

*I am the great granddaughter of Cornelius and Susan Barnes Lebby and took for granted that I would meet Larry, for the first time, soon to paint my judge portrait. Sending loves and blessings and a reminder not to put off too much until tomorrow. Honorable Cenceria P. Edwards 🙏*

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**Hon. Cenceria P. Edwards** - August 07, 2019 at 07:42 PM

LB

*To my Lebby Family Members, Im the granddaughter to Elizabeth and daughter to Jereleen Young. I'm so sorry to hear about cousin Larry. I'm LaVerne. I was frequently called and spoke with Aunt Kathleen. Understand fortunately I haven't had any luck reaching out to her. Called the funeral as well. No response. I know she's 102 now. I hope she's still with us.*

LaVerne Brown - July 15, 2021 at 11:33 AM

AG

“ *Africa Lebby Graham lit a candle in memory of Larry Francis Lebby*



Africa Lebby Graham - August 05, 2019 at 11:39 AM

HH

“ *Larry painted a Daylily while sitting in my yard. It is a painting I look at each morning with joy. Thank you ,Larry, for sharing your talent and friendship with me.  
I know the Lord will look upon Larry's beautiful family with much love.  
Henny Hall*

Henriette Hall - August 01, 2019 at 09:33 AM

RM

“ *Condolences from Rusty Matthews and Ann Dreher.*

rusty matthews - July 27, 2019 at 11:37 AM

WL

“Larry Lebby” (pronounced stridently) was a name we heard often during our college days from his daughter Amanda. Amanda shared his art, advice and influence on her life with us her college friends. We felt like we knew him well. Amanda and Family, although time and space has created a bit of distance know that you are all in our thoughts and hearts at this time. We are holding you all and Sir Larry Lebby up in prayer. We love you Amanda and miss you. God bless you all. - Crissy, Debby, Eileen, Jennell, Maria, Marisol, Tanya and Windy

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**Windy Lawrence** - July 26, 2019 at 02:31 PM

SC

“ Larry was a great creative gentle spirit who loved his family and friends, His spirit of creative light is non the less present as he is part of the creative universe which cherished him.

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**Stephen Chesley** - July 26, 2019 at 11:44 AM

JK

“ Larry was my student assistant while he was at the University of South Carolina. I remember him as a kind, gentle man who had great skill and worked hard. He took on any task without complaint. We kept up for a while after graduation. I am pleased to have known him. My prayers are for his family.  
Janet Katz

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**Janet Katz** - July 26, 2019 at 10:31 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Larry Francis Lebby.*



July 26, 2019 at 08:07 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Larry Francis Lebby.*



July 26, 2019 at 08:04 AM



“ *To My Esteemed Brother-In-Law,  
 “May the Lord bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace-Amen. “  
 Dear God, please give us the strength to endure this situation and to find the blessings with the lessons that it contain, while we continue to endure please guide our thoughts, words and actions so that our walk will be in your peace and love.  
 Thank GOD for Larry’s Life and his extraordinary talent that exemplified the perfection of an Artist..... For your Art Legacy will be remembered and treasured by generations to come.....  
 My Brother your humble demeanor will be sorely missed from the family and this world; Rest- In- Peace.  
 Ronald Harris,  
 Kabul, Afghanistan*

Ronald Harris - July 26, 2019 at 03:58 AM

JP

“ Jennifer, Eliana, & Malana Pinckney purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Larry Francis Lebby.



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**Jennifer, Eliana, & Malana Pinckney** - July 25, 2019 at 03:52 PM

GJ

“ Grew up with Larry and his brothers. They were like family. In the old and new Dixianna. My deepest prayers for his family.

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**Gwendolyn B Jeffers** - July 25, 2019 at 11:20 AM

TF

“ The Furtick and Cook families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Larry Francis Lebby.



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**The Furtick and Cook families** - July 25, 2019 at 11:00 AM

TF

“ The Carter Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Larry Francis Lebby.



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**The Carter Family** - July 24, 2019 at 05:10 PM



“ Our heartfelt sympathy to the Lebbby family! Levi and Loretta Johnson & Family 🙏🥲😞

Levi and Loretta Johnson - July 24, 2019 at 12:54 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Larry Francis Lebbby.



July 24, 2019 at 11:52 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of Larry Francis Lebbby.



July 24, 2019 at 11:05 AM