



## REGINALD F. LEWIS

This February (Black History Month), PBS will be airing "Pioneers: Reginald F. Lewis and the

Making of a Billion Dollar Empire,” which chronicles the life and legacy of business pioneer, philanthropist and titan Reginald F. Lewis, who was a Harvard Law School graduate, venture capitalist, and leader of the global food company TLC Beatrice International.

Lewis was the first American ever to close an overseas billion dollar leveraged buyout deal.

He acquired an unprecedented global conglomerate of 64 companies in 31 countries, and paved the way for future entrepreneurs and black leaders through his life’s work until his untimely death at age 50.

Lewis is also known as the late husband of Loida Nicolas Lewis, a Filipino-American immigration lawyer, businesswoman and civic leader.

“Reginald Lewis was a pioneer because he executed the \$1 billion buyout of Beatrice International Foods. No one had done anything of that magnitude before. He was the first American to successfully negotiate a billion dollar overseas leverage buyout,” says Mrs. Lewis.

Additional high praise from Kenneth Chenault, Chairman and CEO of American Express notes, “There is no doubt that Reginald Lewis’ success paved the way for me, and many others, and I think that really is the test and demonstration of real leadership.”



Reginald F. Lewis, the first African American to be named Chairman of the Board of a Fortune 500 company, is shown with his daughter, the author, and his wife, the author's mother, at a formal dinner. Reginald F. Lewis is a pioneer in the field of business and a trailblazer for African American entrepreneurs. He is the author of the book "The Lewis Legacy: A Story of a Billion Dollar Empire" and the author of the book "The Lewis Legacy: A Story of a Billion Dollar Empire".



**Reginald F. Lewis with his wife Loida Nicolas Lewis (right) and his mother Carolyn E.**