



WE WILL MISS YOU ENYI

### ROFESSOR ENYI OKEREKE MD BIO

Enyi Okereke was born in Bonny on April 26, 1954 to Eze Daniel\_(First Speaker of the Eastern Nigeria House of Assembly) and Augusta (Mother) Okereke. Enyi was the youngest of seven children. His siblings are Mr. Chima Okereke, His Royal Majesty, Eze Kelechi Okereke, Okpu 111 of Okpala, Ambassador Nne Kurubo, Dr. Tati Okereke, Late Mrs. Gogo Abbey, and Professor Ndi Okereke-Onyiuke DG of the Nigerian Stock Exchange. He completed his primary education in Port Harcourt Township School and started his secondary education in Government College Umuahia and finished at Baptist High School Port Hartcourt before moving to the United States in 1973 for his tertiary education in Pharmacy and Medicine.

Enyi received his B.Sc. degree in Biochemical Pharmacology at the State University of New York, his B.Sc. in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees at Mercer University in Atlanta, and his medical degree (M.D) at Howard University. He completed a residency in Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania with a sub-specialization in a Foot and Ankle fellowship at the Hospital for Joint Diseases in New York.

Enyi met and fell in love with Moriam Tokunbo Lanval during his studies at Mercer University although their families had long since been friends. Enyi and Moriam wedded and were blessed with three children, two sons, Karim and Kelechi, and a beloved daughter, Kalaya, and a grandson Karim Joseph Chigozie.

Enyi Okereke was a well renowned Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon specializing in Foot and Ankle Surgery-Trauma. He was the Chief, Division of Foot and Ankle Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania Health Systems and an Associate Professor in Orthopedic Surgery at the University Of Pennsylvania School Of Medicine. A Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS), member of the American Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society (AOFAS) were he served on several committees, Enyi was also an inductee of the American Orthopedic Association (AOA), and a member of the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas (ANPA) where he was the National Treasurer and served on the Executive Board at the National level. He was a member of the Medical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania, a member of the National Medical Association (NMA) and a life time member of the NAACP. Enyi was an active member of the Philadelphia Orthopedic Society, where he served on the board as secretary and is currently the Program chairman. He was an invited speaker in several national and international orthopedic meetings and authored over sixty published articles, book chapters and abstracts in medical journals.

At the University of Pennsylvania, Enyi received the Jesse T. Nicholson Award for teaching excellence. He was named to Philly "Top Docs" and "Best Doctors in America" several times.

With a flourishing medical career he was also very active in the financial sector both in the USA and Nigeria. With his strategic skills, vision and leadership, Enyi founded the first company of Nigerian's in the Diaspora,

Nashville Capital Partners Limited (NCPL) to collectively invest in Transnational Corporation of Nigeria (TransCorp). NCPL was the only company on the board of TransCorp. He organized road shows for major financial companies from Nigeria in coordination with ANPA meetings and mobilized Nigerians in the Diaspora to invest in top financial companies in Nigeria.

Enyi was a distinguished member of the Board of Directors of Foisi Broadcasting Network Nigeria Limited (FBN Africa), a Pan-African television, radio and Internet Broadcast Corporation. He completed leadership courses at the Kellogg School of Management in Northwestern University's Business School and appeared as an expert guest speaker on both radio and television on matters of musculoskeletal conditions. He produced several multimedia lectures series for the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, the American Orthopedic Association and the Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society.

Enyi served as a Consultant Physician to Professional and Amateur Athletic Teams including the Philadelphia 76ers basketball team, The PENN Relays and the University of Pennsylvania Athletic Teams in basketball, football, lacrosse and track. He served as a consultant to major Orthopedic Medical Device companies including Zimmer as well as major health insurers.

Enyi's philanthropic work included coordinating and participating in medical missions to Nigeria, lecturing and mentoring inner city high school students in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey, conducting free health fairs in both the USA and Nigeria. Enyi starting donating to Nigeria's healthcare system since 1994 starting with the National Orthopedic Hospital Igbobi. He donated several orthopedic equipment and drugs to other hospitals in various parts of the country. This culminated in his association with ANPA to conduct several medical missions throughout Nigeria giving freely his time and medical and surgical expertise to indigent Nigerians. At the time of his sudden death in Enugu on November 25, 2008, Enyi was helping to train Nigerian Surgeons on the latest modality of minimally invasive surgical procedures. His biggest passion was his project in an NGO incorporated to focus on Trauma and emergency care in Nigeria specifically road traffic accidents.

Enyi was a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother, brother-in-law, mentor and friend to an endless list of individuals.

## RIBUTE TO MY HUSBAND "MY GUIDING LIGHT"

Enyi, my love, my Babes, my best friend. What can I say? You are the wind beneath my wings. I love you so much it hurts. I cannot begin to understand or comprehend why you left us so soon. I have to trust that God has a plan. You have been my rock and the foundation of our family.

You are a wonderful husband, the best a wife could ask for, a dedicated and loving Father. You have set the bar very high as a husband, father, uncle, brother, brother-in-law, father-in-law and friend. Your generosity knows no boundaries in giving of yourself and your time without reservation. You love fully and unconditionally.

You always said you wanted to raise your children to be ready to stand on their feet and be ready to face the realities of this harsh world. To face the world with pride and confidence. You accomplished this so well and have gotten your family to a stage where we can carry on after you.

I can hear your voice clearly saying to me, "Be strong, Babes. You will be okay." My Babes, you may be gone physically but you will always be with me, my soul mate.

I will be strong, Enyi, my love, and carry on your love, greatness, kindness and philanthropy.

Your "Adamma"



# HANKS TO MY FATHER,

Mentor, best friend, and a great man for a truly loving and unconditional relationship. I am blessed to have had a father as a mentor and best friend, which is extremely rare based upon every other father-son relationship I have encountered. I did not grow up initially knowing my father, which is a great surprise to most people in America and definitely Nigeria due to our genuine relationship as father- son. The early years without him helped me not initially accept my father because of birth rights but to love him on my own accord. My father wanted to be in my life immediately, I refused because of my love for my grandmother and remained with her until she passed. He understood this decision based upon his own love for his own mother and their great relationship. My father's understanding and patience's where valuable contributing factors to his greatness.

My mentor, whom I called "pops" in his own way motivated and encouraged me to believe I can do whatever I wanted. He refused to allow me to desire mediocrity. I remember a serious argument when I was a teenager about simple goals and he was extremely upset and said he would disown me if I ever talked in such a manner again.

Pops never changed his way or belief to fit any situation and this is the stand up character that we all love. My mentor told me to finish my under graduate degree, then finish my Master of Business degree. My best friend asked me what I want to do after graduate school, and I told him I wanted to be a business owner and didn't want a salaried position. As a father he told me the positive and negative aspects of entrepreneurship. My father, mentor, and best friend said I will support you in your dreams (with a plan of course). Thanks to a great man's support I went out to the world DOING, not just believing I can achieve whatever I want. So thanks again to "pops" a great man and I hope and pray to be able to positively influence not only my children and their friends, but many around the world like, dad.

To my father, my best friend and a great man



Your son Karim

WE WILL MISS YOU ENYI

## O MY DADDY,

I can't believe you're gone, but even as I write this I know you're not really gone because I still see your face, I still hear your voice, your laughter, I see your beautiful, contagious smile (which I was fortunate enough to inherit). As I sit here writing this, tears streaming down my face I don't feel ashamed or weak because I remember the last conversation we had when I called you, upset about a job I really wanted and didn't get, and you told me, "it's okay...it's okay to cry...do you feel that? I'm giving you a big bear hug." And I think I really did feel it, and I know I can always feel it whenever I need it, you giving me a big hug and kiss. You, my daddy, who I loved so much...who I still love so much and will always love. A love like this can never go away, can never diminish, never fade, and never weaken. A love like this I will carry in my body, in my bones as long as I walk this earth and in my heart, soul and spirit for long, long after that, until I can see you again and give you that big bear hug and sit on your lap again and lay on your chest. Something I would have done every day of my life...sit on my daddy's lap...an unabashed daddy's girl. I was your babygirl, I am your babygirl.

Daddy, I love you so much... words, thoughts can't even encompass it. As I sit here thinking about how much I love you, my chest swells and it feels like my heart might burst from all the love (not even my heart can contain it) and tears stream from my eyes; an unknowing observer might think that this is a recent phenomenon, sadness of a daughter bereft of her father. What they don't know is that even as you were here living and breathing, I always felt the same when I thought about you...about how much I loved you. We were just alike in that sense. I remember at your 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party when you were giving your speech and talking about your family and how much you loved us, when it came to my turn you just said "and my babygirl..." and there was just silence as tears came to your eyes, no need to say more, I knew...I felt it. I love you so much, Daddy, I just can't stop writing it. As I sit and think about and am baffled by my incapability to express it just right, I realize that a love like this is one that could only have been created in heaven, one that could only been nurtured by the will of God.

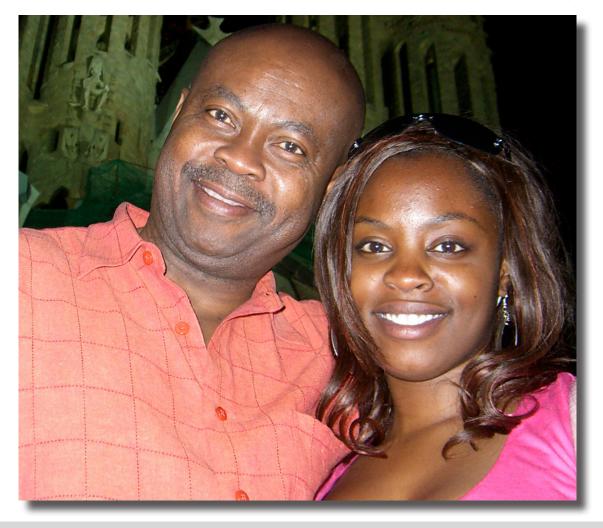
Which brings me to another point, that you were an angel, not figuratively but truly, but I can't take complete credit for this revelation. As I heard them say it, it suddenly made so much sense to me. They said, "God only puts his angels here for a brief while. They go just as quickly as they came," and looking back on your life here on earth I can't believe I didn't realize it before. I wish you would have told me, warned me or something, but I know you couldn't. I know I seem sad and broken right now, but I don't want you to worry about me because I will be fine (and I know you already know that because I hear you saying "Babygirl, it'll be fine"). You told us that your father taught you that a parent is supposed to put his children on his shoulders so that they can reach higher than he ever could. You have done this and so much more. That is why I know I will be fine, we will all be fine. Your babygirl is going to graduate from Harvard in June 2009 and after that, the world is hers for the taking. You raised one strong, smart cookie. There is no need to say it again, Daddy,

but I love you so much.

#### To those reading,

I might dare say that my biggest frustration, my biggest grief is not how terribly much I miss my daddy, but the thought of all the people who never had the privilege to meet him, to know him. I know that I was so lucky, so fortunate, truly blessed to have spent 21 years with him, and when I sit and think about it, it truly makes me overwhelmed with joy. So when you see me, don't look at me with sorrow or pity, look at me with joy, happiness, perhaps even envy knowing that I was so blessed to have been given the best father in the entire world and to have inherited a part of his greatness and his beautiful smile.

Kalaya Okereke



WE WILL MISS YOU ENYI



I am supposed to write a tribute for a man that I realize was truly an angel. I am supposed to write a tribute for a man who did so much in so little time. I am supposed to write a tribute for my father. He taught me so much and his love was indescribable. The most important thing about my father that comes to mind is the way he touched everyone he met. Whether it was family, friends or perfect strangers, my dad left people with a smile on their faces. He was an eternal student, always willing to learn new things but teaching everyone around him important lessons in life as well. My dad and I would bump heads sometimes when he would try to correct mistakes that I made, and mom would say it was because we were so much alike and that he loves and cares for me so much that it hurts him to see me falter. I would argue that it was not true that I am my own person and wanted to make my own path. Now looking back on his life and reflecting on the amazing times we had together, my only hope is that I will be able to accomplish half of the things that my father has done. Even up to his abrupt passing, he was on a medical mission to improve the quality of the health care system that he ultimately succumbed to.

And so I simply want to say I love you dad. I love you and will continue to love you with all of my heart. I wish I could hold you one last time and let you know what a profound and positive influence you have been on my life. I promise to continue to make you proud of me, and I know that you will continue to guide me in all that I do.

So I am not writing to say good bye to my dad, but more to put to an end to one phase of our relationship as a new one begins.



Kelechi



WE WILL MISS YOU ENYI

### RIBUTE TO A MOST BELOVED FATHER IN-LAW:

Oh dearest dad! What sadness has befallen me since I learnt of your death. "I will see you on Wednesday" you said, a day that arrived with that promise never fulfilled! "I Will be fine Trish"...."see I arrived safely" but I guess we never considered you returning in one piece.

Oh dad! What great sorrow I feel when I think of a future without your loving embrace, without your calm comforting voice. A greater loss I have never known! How can I now survive the medical counsels that I have lost through your death! Who will laugh at my silly foibles and say that I am dramatic, who will call me at 12am on a wrong date to sing me "happy birthday" song. Who will say " I love you Trish and I will call you when I touch down"

Oh Dad! I wish you didn't have to go so soon, I wish you gave me a chance to repay you for your unconditional acceptance, love, care and kindness you showed me from the day I met you. Dad! I wish I had a chance to tell you how much of a father you were to me, never allowing me miss my own home and parents especially during Christmas in faraway U.S.A I wish I had the time to look after you in old, although we knew how much we loved ourselves because we told ourselves so often enough, but death stole the gift of old age from you. I wish you had more time to rest but I guess God knew your short time on earth!

Dad, for all that you were to everyone, especially me your daughter in-law, your calmness of spirit, encouraging support, staunch belief and unending love, I say thank you for impacting my life even though it was short lived, you will be sorely missed! I did tell you a day before you died and I say it again for the last time "I love you dad"

Adieu!!! Rest in peace!

Tribute to a Wonderful Grand Dad: From Karim Joseph Chigozie Okereke

Grand Pa! I will forever remember the times we had at Christmas 2006, my christening March 2007 and my 1 year birthday November 2007, which you took special time to attend and made me some memorable days. I will look upon our pictures together with love and comfort knowing that I spent some time with you before you left us.

I Love you and I will miss you! Goodnight, Grand Pa!

From Mrs. Patricia Okereke (Esquire)



Enyi, it is difficult to come to terms with the SHOCK that you, our KID brother, the BABY of the Family, have to go now, leaving all your older siblings behind. It is difficult to come to terms with the vacuum created by your demise, as we remember all the assumed duties you were expected to perform when we, your older ones are no more.

As the BABY of the Family you occupied a special place in all our hearts. Your departure has created a deep scar in our hearts. As a successful and hardworking young man, we were full of hope that you will carry the DANIEL and KALAYA OKEREKE Family Baton to the next generation, the grandchildren. You raced off! WHY? It was so sudden, so confusing, so devastating! You did not give us time to call on God and try to save you.

The Medical Mercy Mission you have been leading to various parts of our Country has recorded huge successes, as many lives have been saved. Your last Medical Mission to Enugu was to continue to bring Medical Succor to those who cannot afford it. BUT YOU DIED!!!

ENYI, the wound is still fresh, the vaccum is still gaping, but we thank God for the many lives he used you to improve and to save. On our part, we are confident that God will bring CALM and SANITY to the turmoil in our hearts.

ENYI, we are proud of you! We wouldn't have wished for a better, devoted, caring and dependable KID Brother. WE LOVE (D?) you, ENYI!

DEACON CHIMA A OKEREKE

HRM EZE SIR K. B. OKEREKE

AMBASSADOR NNE FURO KURUBO

DR. TATI OKEREKE

PROFESSOR NDI OKEREKE-ONYIUKE, OON



There was this man, he loved us as if he was our father. He was at our graduations, our weddings, our children's births and baptisms. He took us to his room to scold us and cry with us, tell us about life, taught us how to drive and how to buy a car. He returned our phone calls faster than our friends did. He taught us to believe in ourselves by believing in us, he fixed the glass door when we broke it fixed the toilet when we threw toys in it. He checked on us when we had fevers, colds and broken bones. He defended us when our opinions differed from our parent's and convinced them to let us fly. He listened to us sing even when it was painful to do so for the 10th time, he laughed at our jokes that weren't even funny and said we could dance when we couldn't keep to the beat. He asked our Mom's and Dad's how we were doing in school and took their calls to talk to us when we behaved badly. If you walked into a room, you couldn't tell who were his nieces and nephews and who were his wife's nieces and nephews. He made us all cousins even though we were really in-laws. He showed the boys how to love and take care of a woman and showed the girls what to expect from a man. This man was OUR UNCLE!

Uncle Enyi, it is impossible to imagine our lives without you in it, where would we go and what would we do without running it by you. But it is with great pride that we say farewell to you because now we can stand on our own feet and put into practice all that you've taught us. From 3 months old to 43 years old, we are all your nieces and nephews, with heavy hearts today but stronger minds tomorrow, thanks to you. We love you, we will never forget you, and you can rest knowing that you have a whole army of young people left to follow in your footsteps in our individual ways.

Gigi Kurubo-Ojukwu

FOR ALL YOUR NIECES & NEPHEWS



Uncle Enyi, What happened? I called you from my office, you didn't answer your phone and then you called me back a few minuets later. After speaking with me, you handed the phone over to somebody in the hospital. I overheard you in the background telling the person that your nephew wanted to come and check on you, and that I should be given directions. I came straight from the office so I didn't even have time to take off my uniform. When I got to the hospital, you said, "Bom, Bom, how are you?" After we said hello to each other, the Doctor said I should excuse them so they could check you and they pulled the screen between us. When they were done, they opened up the screen, but told me not to engage you in any conversation. I watched you sleep and then wake up and then sleep again. So why didn't you tell me? Uncle why didn't you tell me?

My friend who I'm staying with hasn't been in town for a while and the house we share is big and empty for just one person. Each day after work I dreaded going back to that lonely house. I didn't want to tell my friend and make him leave Port Harcourt and come back. There was no one to talk to. The last few nights I've spent have been the most depressing and lonely nights of my life. I have sat up in bed, paced around the house, prayed, sang choruses and tried to figure out what happened but I haven't come up with an answer. One minute you were sleeping, the next minute.... Ecclesiastes 4:2 "I envy those who are dead and gone, they are better off than those who are still alive."

How am I going to tell Aunty Tokunbo and my Mum that I stood there helpless while you slipped away. As a soldier who is trained to defend people, I couldn't even defend my own uncle from the hands of death. What kind of soldier am I? I know there is a time and season for everything under Heaven or as the Good News Bible puts it, "Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses." Ecclesiastes 3:1 has always been my favourite verse of scripture, but verse 2 says" He sets the time for birth and the time for death." And since we can't question God, sleep on Uncle Enyi.

L	οv	e.

Bom Bom.

Boma Kurubo

## Y DEAREST EVER-YOUNG COUSIN.

Your time came; the good Lord had called you home.

Your mission and ministry done

Well done in your special ways

Your departure beyond our conceptualization

In your sweet, quiet and calm ways, you ran the race, kept the faith and persevered

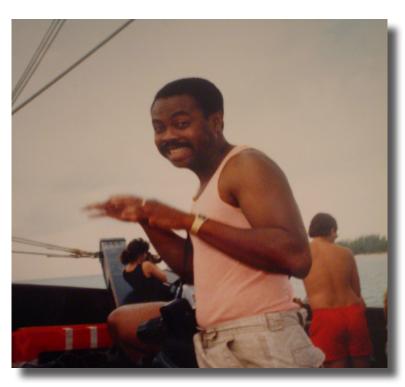
You created a great footpath to follow, now passing on the Baton

We hope to continue on your legacy.

Now, rest in peace, may you find comfort in HIS loving arms until we meet again.

" A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and Gold." Proverb 22:1

From Ilanye LongJohn USA





I want to express my sympathy on the loss of Dr. Enyi Okereke. I pray God give you the strength to bear the loss. I pray Allah give us all long live (in good health and wealth).

Amin.

Mohammed Lanval (Baba)



## Y BROTHER, MY FRIEND, MY BROTHER-IN-LAW!

Enyi, The mediator, The teacher, The guide. Remeberer, Giver, Faithful, Loyal, Winner!

The stand-in dad of all the years.

You were not one to ask "what is the matter" or "what is wrong". You simply asked "would you like to talk about it".

I try not to relive those horrific endless hours in the hospital in Enugu were you fought to live and we were totally unable to help you. When I do my shame is total. That such a scenario could unfold in twenty first century Nigeria totally defeats me. But then God's plan for us is more important and bigger than our plans for ourselves.

I have learnt from you-

That the value of a person resides in what we give and not what we receive

That things done together are worth more than things bought together

That parents are only as happy as their children

I know your passing will be extremely hard for your Babes, Karim, Kelechi, Kalaya and Patricia. It will be hard for us all, but we are here for them.

"FAITH IN GOD IS LOVING THE BEST WAY WE CAN THE REST GOD'S WILL BE DONE"

SUNRE O ORE MI!

ALLAH YA JIKAN KA

DEIN NA MU

LA N' UDO

MAMA NENE



I now believe in Angels on Earth, you were one.

### Gigi Ojukwu







The last few days have been surreal. I feel that I am in a nightmare and I'm desperately hoping that I will soon wake up. Unfortunately we all have to accept the painful realization that this not a dream. Enyi is gone and the thought that keeps going round and round in my mind is "how, oh how could this have happened?"

Enyi was our brother-in-law because he was married to our sister, Tokunbo, but in truth he was our son, brother, friend, doctor and confidante. I'm at a loss for words to describe a man who was one of Gods finer creations. Enyi was an unusual man. He was kind, gentle, good natured, just, respectful, patient, compassionate and always calm no matter the provocation.

We all know that Enyi was an accomplished and successful doctor, a fantastic husband to his wife, Tokunbo and a great father to his children, Kareem, Kelechi and "baby girl" Kalaya. But you may not know that this extremely busy man had the time, capacity and a heart large enough to be loving & caring not just to his own siblings but his wife's large, difficult and often times exasperating family.

Words cannot adequately describe what Enyi meant to "The Lanvals". Had our family (Tokunbo's parents, siblings, nieces & nephews) sat with God to pick a brother-in-law, we couldn't have gotten a better man than Enyi. He had a deep, strong and personal relationship with each and every one of us. He was also uncle, mentor and role model to our children, some of whom he was more of a father to than their biological fathers.

Most summers, we and our numerous children would head for New Jersey/Philadelphia where we were always welcome at "Hotel Okereke" as my husband fondly referred to their home. When we were sick, pregnant or just unhappy, Enyi was always available to lean on, fall back on or depend on.

Many times a very tired Enyi would return from work at night, walk into his bedroom to find a sister or two lying in bed with his wife and our children sprawled all over the bedroom floor watching television. Most men would have been irritated and somewhat annoyed with the invasion and lack of privacy but not Enyi, who would smile at all and happily join us.

I could reminisce indefinitely about the numerous situations and incidences that made Enyi so, so special, and I hope and pray that he knew in what high esteem we held him.

Enyi death will leave an abysmal void in our lives, but nonetheless we are very fortunate to have known him. We are all richer and better for having known him.

If we feel his loss so deeply I can't imagine what Tokunbo, Kareem, Kelechi and Kalaya are feeling. May God give us all the comfort that we all so badly need.

Enyi, Doc, Likita, Enyinnaya, El Presidente, Uncle Enyi, Adieu, good bye. We are devastated by your loss and you will be sorely missed. May God grant you peace and eternal rest till we meet again

Ireti Kingibe

On behalf of Tokunbo's mother, siblings, nieces and nephews.





Dearest Uncle Enyi (Henyi) like I fondly called you, it is so difficult for me to write this, because I can't believe I'm having to do a tribute to you.

You were so full of life and perfection, you taught not only your children but all of us the value and importance of family. It was only a few months ago that you Good Lord used you to save my Husband's life, and now we were not given a chance to do anything; even if it was just to be by your side and hold your hands to tell you that it will be alright.

I feel so sad because I never got to tell you in person how much I love you, taking for granted as we human beings always do that I still have time to tell you how much I love you and how important you are to me.

Your marriage to my sister Tokunbo was everyone's example of what a home should be. Your passing on to higher glory has only proved further what I know; that the Good Lord does not send Angels with wings to earth but in the form of human beings. I know for sure that you were an Angel sent by God to touch all our lives in your very special way.

Moniade would also say to me, even though it was for the 100th time, Mama do you know who my favorite Uncle is? Not giving me a chance to reply, she would say with a big smile "Uncle Enyi".

I can only continue to thank God for giving me the opportunity and honor to have been a part of your life, for giving you to my sister "Twinks" and for the beautiful children you both have, the individuals both of you with God's grace have turned them to.

I will not say goodbye, I will only say Uncle Enyi, See you later!

Love you always,

Sheyi Owoade

### O A WONDERFUL BROTHER, FRIEND, COUNSELOR

Enyi, my brother, my friend, my doctor, an uncle and a father to my children and so many others. Enyi, where do I begin? It is unimaginable to think that I will not see you again until the final days.

You said "I love you" in so many ways that had nothing to do with words. So how can I put into words the pain I feel right now? How can I put into words how much you mean to me and my family? How can anyone fill the vacuum you have left?

You came into our lives like a lit candle whose radiance brightened any room and warmed every heart that you touched. They say that there are lessons in so much of what we do in our lives but the key lesson in this case, surely, is the importance of extracting and appreciating all the joy of knowing you.

I am grateful for the times we shared as family. I am grateful for you having been a wonderful husband to my sister, Toks, and the best father to both your biological children and a potpourri of so many other children. Rest in Perfect Peace my dear brother till we meet again.

#### Enuma Okoro





I still can't believe you are gone. My consolation is that I know God sends angels to earth to do his work. Doc you were one of those angels, and your work here on earth is done and you have moved on. You touched so many lives, REST IN PEACE DOC, I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.

#### Toberu Lanval-Dada



### HE GOOD DOCTOR

Starting from the beginning would be impossible because there really is no beginning. But unfortunately an end. An end to all the good times, fun times and special moments we all shared with you. What we have left are the memories, which we would cherish forever.

I always wondered how you did it. How could you just walk into a room and electrify the place. How you managed to blend in, any and everywhere regardless of the age, profession, race or class of the people there. Why did everybody like you so much and get along with you so well? Why did I feel more confident whenever you were around?

Where did you find the time to be there for everybody. Where did you find the time to be at every birthday, graduation, recital, wedding, special occasion etc. How did you manage that?

How were you able to make everybody feel special in a different way? How were you able to remain so calm even in the most difficult situations. How was it that you had the right answer for almost anything and the appropriate explanation too?

For the record, you were a great guy and I always admired you and considered myself lucky to have known you the way I did.

I also wondered if there was any particular reason why on the weekends you would go to the furniture store, buy a complex table or maybe a china cabinet, pop out your tool box, gather us all and make us put it together reading the manual? I dreaded that. You could actually have had the "fix it guys" come in and do that you know

Why did you make us do funny stuff, then record it on your camcorder and turn around to use it to threaten and blackmail us?

I remember staying at yours for a couple months when I was between houses in 1997. I loved my midnight snack of cookies and juice. I would come down to the kitchen, sit on the table and have my snack. Then you decided that despite all the cookies in the pantry

You had to like the same snack-well cookies that I liked. I would creep down the stairs believing I was all by myself with the intention of having my midnight snack, only to find you sitting in the kitchen eating my cookies and smiling at me like you got me this time.

I never told you this but I felt proud and privileged whenever people said we looked alike or that there was

some kind of resemblance between us. Even though I looked better, it was OK.

I felt proud staying in the background, watching you do your thing and saying to myself "Yeah, that's my Uncle"

I learned from you that it's okay to say 'NO' and still be a good person. I also learned from you that it's not a crime to speak your mind.

You taught me that you have to believe in yourself first before people can believe in you.

You taught me that a real man never goes back on his word and should never run away from responsibility.

You taught me that a man should be firm and stand for what he believes in. But you also showed me that men are human, and that is why I cried when I lost you. It was painful, it was sad. It was unnecessary, it was devastating. I was in a state of disbelief, I could not take it. How can I go on knowing you will not be there for me to confer with? How can I go on not having you to share my deep concerns with?

Do you realize how tough this is going to be for us all? But I know you were practical and you would want us to be realistic regardless. And even though I feel empty inside, even though I have a vacuum in my heart, I want to make you a promise. I want to promise you that I will try to be strong. I want to promise you that you can NEVER be forgotten. I want to promise you that those things you taught me and the things I learned from you will forever be embedded in my mind and will form man that I am and will be.

I want to tell you that I miss you. I want to tell you that I love you and always will.

The Good Doctor,,,,,,,,,,,,, they say the pain might be invisible, but you cant hide the scars.

Gogo.



"Hey Gwenny Gwenny".. I can't believe that I'll never hear the voice that says that anymore. I miss you my dearest uncle, father and friend. I never got to really say thank you for all that you were to me. You opened your heart and your home to me so many years ago. I was your daughter, you were always there with a kind word to offer, a piece of advise, always pushing ever so gently in the right direction. Why did you have to go? You taught me how to love and how to raise my children. How to work hard to achieve all that I wanted. How to be independent.. I love you Uncle Enyi. You touched my life so deeply.

I can still see your kind eyes and hear your warm laughter.

No words could ever bring you back but I am comforted knowing that I have another guardian angel in heaven. Rest well my dearest uncle. May your gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

#### Gwen





I was dumbfounded when told of your passing and I questioned my faith because death should not have claimed a truly just man.

Uncle Enyi, I take with comfort today that you are standing at the door of a new life which I know nothing about but know one day I too will be there, as my father Onyeabo before you, as Uncle Uba before you, as Uncle Tok's before you, and the many before you.

Uncle Enyi, I am like a blind man who feels his way so that he will not fall whenever I hear your soft voice calling out 'babes' your wife Aunty Tok's in my head knowing truly how much you love her and your kids.

Uncle Enyi, thanks for all the advice you gave me, thanks for the support you gave me and my young family, thanks for your friendship, thanks for the leadership you displayed within our gigantic family and beyond, thanks for the love and kindness you gave to your family and everyone that came in contact with you.

Uncle Enyi, you are a truly just man and may God grant your soul ever lasting peace.

Uncle Enyi, may God grant your family and gigantic family the strength to overcome the gigantic pain of your loss.

"Only those return to Eternity, who on earth seek out Eternity."

Love always,

Onochie Oduah, Anna-Maria Fruci-Oduah, & Kamaldeen Fruci-Oduah



### E AS NIGERIANS TAKE FAMILY

for granted, because we grow up with family all around us. We do not realize that not all people are so blessed. When you immigrate, then you are forced by the nature of the society to begin to reevaluate life and the little things that make life worthwhile. You begin to understand more how much value "Family" brings to the quality of your life. It is that aspect of your life that you can only describe as "priceless". Some family you were born into, some are thrust on you, and some you acquire consciously or unconsciously as you go through life. Its not the number in your "Family" that matters, its who you have in your "Family" that counts. Suddenly today my "Family" in America has shrunken significantly.

Uncle Enyi as we sometimes joined the kids to call him, my big brother in America. This has been an incredibly devastating blow. I am still in a state of disbelief, still subconsciously expecting this horrible dream to be over. Uncle Enyi is that brother you could always call on to give you his honest opinion about some idea you just came up with. No question was ever stupid. He would never put you down. He was always ready to encourage and support you. He would never let you allow your fears or insecurities stand in the way of your progress. He was always ready to throw his own two cents in. Our conversations usually started with me saying "is this a good time? If not I'll call back-----,", at different times he would say "It's okay I'm in between patients' or "Oh I just finished my dictation and I am driving, its okay" or "I'll listen while you talk". Now to that last answer you know its not a good time and he was just being polite. That is "Uncle Enyi" always wanting to be there for you, that was your cue to give him an out and say "I'll call you later".

As I lay in my bed at night I still cannot wrap my thoughts around the fact that somebody who was always there giving of himself to others could not get real help the one time he needed it the most. Its so difficult to imagine that aspect of my life being over, my only small consolation is that the heavens must have been tired of going on without you that they decided to call you back home. We all miss you so much already and you will continue to live in our hearts. May your soul rest in peace.

#### Data Longjohn



WE WILL MISS YOU ENYI



It's funny, how we think words are so easy to come by. But sometimes, in the best and worst of circumstances, it seems words are impossible to find. Like now, the worst of circumstances. I have been searching for days but I cannot find them, not a single word to fill the gap that is left with the untimely passing of my dearest uncle. They asked me to write a tribute in memory of him. But tributes are for those who are no longer with us. I cannot write a tribute because it is unimaginable and unacceptable to think of a world where you, my dearest uncle Enyi, are not among us.

So, instead, I will try to write of some of the ways you are and will always be alive with me, among the living, in my heart, in my mind, in a world where not even death can separate us. And I will write it to you, because I don't believe our conversations have to stop now.

#### My Dearest Uncle Enyi,

I've heard you've left us for a while, that you've taken an unexpected trip and that we won't see again for quite some time. I have to be honest with you Uncle, this one is hard for me to hear. If I knew you were leaving so soon I would have packed you a small bundle of letters telling you all the ways I love you and all the ways I will miss you. You could have read them on your journey and all the while you will wait for us to join you. Now I will have to write these letters each time I foolishly reach for the phone to call you, or flip open my computer to email you. I guess the one I am writing now is the first one. I'll start with some good news- I finished my book. You would be so proud of me Uncle. I wanted to surprise you at Christmas with a copy to read.

#### Uncle, I can't do this.

This is not okay. Don't you know that life can't be the same without you? Don't you know that suddenly nothing makes sense anymore? Don't you know that you are the piece that holds so much together? This is not okay. But I am supposed to be telling you about how much I love you...

I remember when you wrote me that letter while you were on vacation, after you'd read the book I gave you that Christmas. Aunty told me you never read non-medical books, let alone wrote letters. I loved you even more when I got that letter. I still have it.

This past August in the Bahamas, you pulled me aside and reminded me how much you loved me and how often you thought of me. You apologized for not calling me more but you said you hoped I knew that you were always there for me whenever I needed you. I had just lost Clark and you reminded me how difficult it can be when we lose someone we love. You said that time would help the hurt.

I can't imagine how much time this one will take Uncle.

My heart is not as big as yours Uncle. I am not sure it can contain this.

Right now it is too crowded in there with images of you, so many images of you...so many pictures of your love and generosity, your quiet, strong spirit, your fatherly ways to so many of us, your love for life, the look on your face when you walked into your surprise 50th birthday four years ago, your uncontrollable laughter as we joked loudly at Parizade restaurant the night of my graduation in North Carolina, you dancing, always dancing- at Christmas, at parties, at weddings.

Weddings....you were supposed to be at mine. (Especially after you secretly told me that one time at the house, your face full with your irreplaceable smile, that no matter how much everyone messed with me it was perfectly fine with you if I brought home a "white guy!")

It would be perfectly fine with me if you came back home to us.

But I know we have to be strong. That's what you would say. So maybe we'll try that. Maybe all of us left here, all of us who cannot comprehend this, who cannot wrap our minds around this loss, maybe we will all try taking turns being strong for one another, for Aunty, for Kalaya, for Kelechi, for Kareem.

I know you'll be watching us Uncle, so when it seems like the pain is too much, you have to promise to help us. I'll keep writing you these letters in my heart.

Until I see you again.

Love,

Chi Enuma Okoro

## R. ENYI OKEREKE, (UNCLE ENYI)

When I think of Uncle Enyi, all I hear is his laugh. In my head he is always laughing. It's not too loud. I've never heard him laugh too loud, or speak too loud for that matter. He'd tell a story, or a joke or he'd tease you about some trivial thing, and then there would be that laugh. And then you would laugh. Even if what he said wasn't too funny, you would laugh too loud. His kind of laugh is more than infectious, it is affect-ious; it fathers happiness.

The thing about Uncle Enyi he somehow makes you forget how important and influential a man he is, when you are sitting down to eat with him; that while he is reaching out his right hand to give you a hug,

He has one gracefully wielding a scalpel to fight for someone's life, another tightly holding his home in Nigeria and serving as bridge between the people on either side, one preserved for lifting people up when they were in need of support, and the last to hide all the awards that are constantly bestowed upon him; the awards he'd never tell you about.

He is too swift for you to see them move, and to pleasant for the weight of it all to seep into his demeanor. When he was in a room with you, he could just be Uncle Enyi. A smile stretching across his face and encircling his eyes. Then, he would laugh, and you would laugh.

#### Fama Longjohn





My godfather, to me was one of the people that has always provided a type of comfort, outside of my parents. Throughout my life, we have taken countless trips to New Jersey, which usually meant we were making some kind of stop at his house, or seeing him during some part of the trip. Uncle Enyi along with my dad, would always drive halfway between New York and New Jersey to exchange kids, catering to the wishes of Fama, Kalaya, and myself to spend time with one another. The many sleepovers at the Okereke residence are plastered into my memory, with smiles, laughs, and fun times spent with those I love. Everytime we went to some "organization" conference, barbecue, or function of some kind, he was usually one of the familiar faces I was looking forward to seeing as we arrived and went to greet other guests.

The last time I spent with Uncle Enyi, was at my school, the University of Pennsylvania, where he went through the trouble of making sure he saw me because he knew he was leaving for Nigeria later in the week. During our lunch together, I was able to probe him with questions about many things, included what inspired him personally to become a doctor. His answers provided me with insight not only into the life of a doctor or surgeon, but into his life as well. I am glad we had that lunch together, the lunch that almost did not happen. I am happy that it did, as it is a memory with Uncle Enyi I will remember and cherish for the rest of my life.

#### Ibie Longjohn



### Y DEAREST FRIEND & BROTHER, DR. ENYI OKEREKE

Has any one ever tried to put upon paper all the little happenings connected with a dear one – happenings of the hours preceding the sudden and unexpected death of that dear one? Would a book contain them? Would two books contain them? I think not.

They pour into the mind in a flood. They are little things that have been always happening every day, and were always so unimportant and easily forgettable before – but now! Now, how different! How precious they are, how dear, how unforgettable, how pathetic, how sacred, how clothed with dignity!

#### Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens)

Just a few days before the unspeakable happened to my dear friend, Enyi, we had a long phone call. He wanted to know if I have "found *us* a place in Brussels yet?" "Yes." I replied, adding "I have found *us* a nice apartment in the center of town and hope to see you soon." He said he was looking forward to coming often to break up his many planned trips between Nigeria and the US. We never say "good-bye" and instead closed with our usual "talk to you soon" and hung up, never suspecting that would be the last time.

It was in the middle of the night when that dreaded call came, announcing the unspeakable. Filled with a certain sense of hopelessness, I wanted to do something, anything to make sense of it all. I replayed that last call to see if hidden in there were messages missed. I tried to recall every word he uttered to see if hidden in them were warnings of what was to come. For days afterwards, I had this dumb sense that something has been lost that will never be found again, yet must be sought, if only for the employment the useless seeking gives. Perhaps being here today to see him laid to rest will bring an end to the useless seeking. But I doubt it.

My mind goes back to the Bahamas a few months ago, an event which I am sure others before me have recounted. I remember now what I had observed then – a certain glow! I had even commented to him about his youthful appearance. Others must have observed this as well – "the sweet, soft contours of early [manhood] restored, all trace of care, and trouble, and suffering, and the corroding years had vanished out of his face."

Dear Enyi, you knew that in my Will I have left your goddaughter, Tara, to you and Tokunbo should anything happen to me! Did you forget? Of all the men in Tara's life I don't know any that he worshipped as she did you. (By the way, I have not yet told her. I can't bring myself to because I know it will break her heart.) When I called her a few days after your death, she remembered for the first time to tell me that when you saw her over her mid-term break, that you had given her another \$100 bill which her Aunty Sheyi was keeping for her. I don't know why after all these weeks she suddenly remembers this. I sobbed silently but comforted by

the certain knowledge now that your spirit remains with her.

My dearest Enyi, rest in peace! Rest peacefully in the knowledge that I will be there to take care of your darling, Kalaya. That I will always be there for your Babes, Tokunbo. That Kelechi, Karim, Trish and little Enyi can continue to count on me.

Sisi Ndi and Sisi Nne. The entire Okereke family. Ndo! Words cannot describe the heaviness I feel in my heart. I can only imagine the weight you bear.

May our Merciful Father give us all the strength to bear this monumental loss, and to carry forward with our obligations, which are now made even more grave by the loss of our Enyi. The one human being we have all relied on, at one time or the other, to help us with life's many burdens.

I know his spirit lives!

#### Ngozi Nwaneri







about what to write about Uncle Enyi I wanted to focus on the one thing that made Uncle Enyi special to all of us, that one thing that made Uncle Enyi – "Uncle Enyi". And when I really thought about it, I realized that the thing that amazed me the most about Uncle Enyi, the thing that made him so special is how he was able to touch so many people, so deeply, on a personal level.

If you ask me about Uncle Enyi I will tell you unequivocally that he was a father to me, and I can reminisce on end about Christmases or Thanksgivings we all spent together in New Jersey. Or the countless summer vacations I spent with them.

But the thing that is so amazing about Uncle Enyi is not that I feel this strongly about him but the fact that there are so many people that feel exactly the same way I do. Who echo my sentiment and who if you asked them would say just as passionately and with just as much conviction that he was their father.

I have so many memories of Uncle Enyi and so many stories, fun times, when we laughed and joked and serious times when he was there for me at the most crucial junctures of my life. But what is mind boggling is that everyone has just as many of these stories. He was there for all of us without diminishing the personal relationship he had with each of us. He was our support, and our "first line of defense" without trivializing our problems and gripes. And he shouldered the burden of all our needs while always remaining cool and calm, with that graceful quiet strength that was classic Uncle Enyi.

It really hit home for me the past few days as we've all been together reminiscing about him, and the other day I stopped and I asked myself how? How was Uncle Enyi able to be the kind of man he was?

I understand how a man can be accomplished in his profession; uncle was a world renowned surgeon, but lots of men are great at their profession. It's not common, but I understand how a man can be a great husband, and we all know Uncle Enyi was the best of husbands. He is the standard by which a lot of us aspire to be as husbands or future husbands. Harder still and even less common is being a great father, but I understand how a man can be a great dad. And uncle Enyi was a phenomenal dad as evidenced by his kids.

But what I can't figure out, and what so amazes me about Uncle Enyi is how he was able to be all these things. How he was able to be a great doctor and still find time to be selfless and pursue medical missions. How we as able to be the best husband to Aunty Tokumbo and still have time to be a great brother to his own brothers and sisters and just as great a brother to his wife's brothers and sisters. How he was able to be the best dad to Kareem and Kelechi and still be a father to me, Uche, Gogo, and his many other adopted sons. How he could be such a great father to his "baby girl" Kalaya and still be a dad to his other girls, Binta, Gigi, Gwen,

Didi, and so many others. And after doing all that he still had time to be a great colleague, a great friend and a mentor to so many other people.

As I now reminisce on Uncle Enyi I amaze at how one man, can be so much, to so many people.

Uncle Enyi we all loved you so much, but I would also like to take this time to tell you uncle that we appreciated you, you amazed us, and we will carry you with us as inspiration to be the best we can be. To finish what you started. To be special, because that's how you saw us and that's how you treated us.

So now as we go on, the grief of your passing will always hurt us, the loss of your presence will always cause us to miss you, and the greatness of the type of man you were will cause us to think from time to time "if only Uncle Enyi were here". But although I will mourn you, I chose not to focus on the fact that you are no longer physically here, but instead be thankful for the time we had. For although the pain in our hearts is great, it is not as great as all the joy you brought to our lives.

We love you Uncle.

Kamal





There's a cacophony of expression from pockets of cousins in all corners of the room. A steady hum of conversation from aunties and uncles flowing beneath and punctuated by cackles of toddlers, tickled to delight by just his wink. But floating above all that is the lilting refrain of one sweet note bouncing from group to group. The lilting refrain of one sweet note distinct in its softness, soul-warming in its recognition, rising above all other sound. The refrain of his name.

Uncle Enyi Uncle Enyi

Bouncing low then high. Weaving harmony through the laughter, the squeals, and the raucous uproar that draws attention for a second.

Uncle Enyi Uncle Enyi

We are gathered in his home and like the fragrant fumes wafting from his kitchen his name rises from all conversation and every group, tanning our laughter with the warmth of his influence for he **is** hearth and home.

Uncle Enyi Uncle Enyi

Uncle Enyi, who, upon our arrival would drench himself in love and splash his giving everywhere... at everyone. Who will splash at us now?... He will.

Uncle Enyi Uncle Enyi

Uncle Enyi we will not leave you and you will not leave us for you are woven into the tapestry of our lives. We will always hear your name. Wherever we are gathered that sweet note will rise. We will ritualize its sound as a balm for our wounds. We will sing it to trigger smiles and flooding memories. Where there is voice you will live.

Uncle Enyi Uncle Enyi

Uncle Enyi Uncle Enyi

By Nneka Okoro



(In honor of my beloved Uncle Enyi)

#### What is a tree when it's roots are gone?

Without you, I feel like I am a rootless tree

One that cannot feed and bears no fruit

It's branches beginning to wither

It's leaves falling one by one.

Without you, I feel like I am a rootless tree

You were the one who fed my spirit,

You helped me to grow,

You told me what responsibilities are, how to be a better me.

Without you, I feel like I am a rootless tree

You taught me to be patient

You taught me that intelligence is the best asset

You taught me what kind of parent I should be.

Without you, I feel like I am a rootless tree

But a tree without roots remains a tree

It still has usefulness

It still has splendor.

I am still who you made me

The bark of my self esteem is strong

The branches of my goals are thick

The leaves of my ideas are plentiful.

Because you were the root of my life for so long,

Even with you gone, I continue to flourish.

by Dienye Abbey



### OULOGY FOR MY VERY DEAR UNCLE ENYI.

We have lost a great Father, a great Brother, a great Doctor. And I have lost a truly great uncle. My earliest child hood memory's of Uncle Enyi are filled with smiles and laughter which accompanied his visits to Nigeria. In his absence my mother would always tell us stories of their childhood and keep us informed of the latest developments in both his and his family's lives. I personally have always been struck by the close bonds that existed between him and the rest of his brothers and sisters and how that bond translated to genuine love and affection for each others families and children. The result of which has been the continuation of such bonds intergenerationally.

Uncle Enyi was a lot of things to a lot of different people, the depth of which I personally am only just beginning to understand. For me personally besides being my mother's youngest brother he will forever remain a source of constant inspiration and a man you could look at and hope to emulate as you went from being a boy to a man.

He was a man that was focused on what is important in life and worked very hard against all odds to achieve all he accomplished in his lifetime. Over the years we had numerous conversations about life in general and he would always ask you what you were doing and to what objective or outcome. He would always listen intently to what you had to say and then offer advice based on his own real life experiences, not wanting to lecture you but to offer you the opportunity to learn from the experience and wisdom he had gathered in his journey through life which as in most cases was filled with adversities and challenges and he would always tell you that what made each man different was how we responded to the hand life dealt us.

My Uncle Enyi loved his family and if you knew him no one would have tell you how deeply he loved Aunty Tokunbo, Karim, Kelechi and Kalaya and we can all find solace in the fact that he lived a very happy and contented life. I will always be grateful to Aunty Tokunbo and my cousins for always openly sharing not just their home, cars, bedrooms and lives with the entire family but most importantly Uncle Enyi, because he truly belonged to the entire family and we will carry him in our hearts forever.

As we give thanks for a life that achieved so much for all of God's children I believe we can all take comfort in the words a man a whole lot smarter than me once said:

"Our death is not an end if we can live on in our children and the younger generation. For they are us, our bodies are only wilted leaves on the tree of life". Albert Einstein.

Love Eternally,

Dati, Marisa and Baby Danye Abbey.

## RIBUTE TO UNCLE ENYI OKEREKE

I recall numerous conversations my sisters and I had over the course of many years as to the wonderful human being you where and how you affected so many lives. It was evident in the heartfelt sentiments they shared that very rarely had they encountered someone so loving and so giving of himself. As I grew to know you, I saw what a remarkable person you were. At family gatherings, be it birthdays, anniversaries, thanksgiving, Christmas, whether in casual conversations or formal toasts the love and awe that family and friends felt for you uncle was evident.

Everyone seemed to recall a profound way in which you positively touched their lives. Some had countless stories over the years. I had always seen how doting a husband you where to aunty Toks and how loving a father to your children and you still found the time and cared enough to make so many feel special and cherished. Over the years my love and respect grew for the wonderful human being you where. I would say uncle Enyi that you showed me how I would want to live my life.

Thank you for all the love you showed my family and myself over the years. I am not sure if you knew uncle, how much I admired, loved and thought of you. You will always be with all of us in heart, in spirit and will live on in your wonderful children and family who seem to share that same spark for life that you shared with so many. Very few people touch so many in such a short time. I know aunty Toks, Kareem, Kelechi and Kalaya will find strength in the knowledge that you lived a remarkable and wonderful life. And you were loved by so many. All of whom love your family. Uncle Enyi, we all will help to look after your family and give them strength. I cannot express how much you will be missed in my life.

May you rest in peace.

Love Okechukwu Okoro.





The man that thought Love and Compassion. He has touched the lives of so many in a positive way, including myself. He was a father to me. He is a model Father, Husband, Uncle, Brother and friend, who let his actions speak for him. He taught me many things that helped shape my outlook on life.

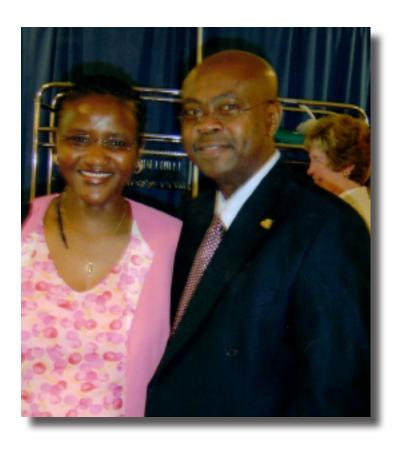
Uncle Enyi was sensitive and receptive to all. He empathize with people and always ready and willing to help. His tender loving nature puts a smile on my face.

I have lots of wonderful memories of Uncle Enyi. Those memories are beyond the reality of the present. Sweet memories shall never die.

I thank God for blessing my life with Uncle Enyi.

With love,

Binta.



WE WILL MISS YOU ENYI



The news of your sudden passing really confounds me

I'm still hoping that somehow I will wake up and be told

That it's all been a bad dream.

And that the tragic story of the past week is really not true.

Our journey in life started close to each other's in '54.

As mother told me, yours was on a Monday, April 26th.

Mine started two days after, Wednesday the 28th.

We grew through primary school at Township School in P.H.

Secondary at Bonny National Grammar School

We left home for post secondary education and ended up in the U.S.

Fate somehow found a way to keep us close to each other.

You in New Jersey, and I next door in New York

We settled to raise our families and had our share of fun times together

We would drive to meet halfway at a Rest stop

So that the children can go with one of us

To spend a weekend or a holiday with their cousins

We celebrated birthdays, accomplishments and other milestones.

Just like us we have watched the children grow up together as cousins.

Your departure leaves a huge void which I doubt will easily be filled.

#### WE WILL MISS YOU ENYI

Because it would require somebody with your unique attributes

You are always there to give of yourself to others

Even till the end on a Medical Mission.

How ironic that you, who cared so much about others

Could not get appropriate care just when you needed it

Though you are no longer here

I will always cherish memories of the fun times we shared

More than a cousin, you were indeed a friend

I'll miss you brotherhood and your friendship

May your soul rest in perfect harmony

Adios, my cousin Enyi

Dawari



### N TRIBUTE TO UNCLE ENYI

Uncle Enyi was a flag bearer. ACHIEVEMENT, TIRELESS DEDICATION, and CONSTANT MENTORSHIP were the flags he bore. Everyone is aware of his academic and professional achievements; a Bachelors Degree in Biochemical Pharmacology, a Doctorate of Pharmacy, a Medical Degree, the Top Doctors in Philadelphia Award, Best Doctors in America Award, and this list goes on and on and on, and on. However, ACHIEVEMENT is not the main topic of my tribute, no, I will leave that to the many others who will speak about Uncle Enyi. I will speak of Uncle Enyi's TIRELESS DEDICATION to those closest to him and his CONSTANT MENTORSHIP to those younger than him.

Uncle Enyi was TIRELESSLY DEDICATED to his loved ones. As a student at the University of Pennsylvania, Uncle Enyi and Auntie Moriam became my second mom and dad. I remember receiving random phone calls from soft spoken Uncle Enyi, just wanting to check in and see how my life and school were going. Uncle Enyi was *hip*; he was the *young, cool* Uncle. I often visited his office and he always, without a doubt, stopped his day for 5-10 minutes to talk. We ate dinners on campus, I visited his home in New Jersey to spend the weekend or to celebrate Easter, he came to my African Students Fashion Show and he came to Kelechi's African Rhythms Drum and Dance Show. Uncle Enyi always made sure to attend your events and that meant a lot because it showed he cared about you.

Uncle Enyi was the quintessential MENTOR. It did not matter the profession you wanted to enter, he offered advice when asked. He and I had med school talks, and not surprisingly, he and Nke Nwaobasi also had those same med school talks when she was at UPenn. What was surprising to me was that a UPenn classmate of mine also had those same talks with Uncle Enyi. I realized it did not matter who you were. If you reached out to Uncle Enyi, he reached back a hundred times fold. THAT was the *very rare and unique quality* of Uncle Enyi and very few people possess it. Greater than any accomplishment he attained, any plaque he was awarded, any paper he published, or any title he was recognized by, the fact that when you reached out to him, Uncle Enyi reached back hundred times fold is *what Uncle Enyi should and must be remembered for*. FOR THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF A GREAT HUMAN BEING AND WHAT MADE HIM A GREAT MAN!!

Uncle Enyi, second to my father, you encapsulate everything I want in a husband and the father of my children. You will always be in my heart and never forgotten.

Nnenna Okereke

Harvard University Biomedical Sciences 2008

University of Pennsylvania 2006

# N REMEMBRANCE OF UNCLE ENYINNA OKEREKE, MD

Enyi

Never was a name so fitting.

Enyi

Never did a name so embody the character of this wonderful being.

Enyi

He was my uncle, my advisor, my friend.

Enyi

He was a loving husband and caring father to the end.

Enyi

Remember him for his intelligence, his accomplishments, his drive

Enyi

But more importantly, remember him as the man who loved, who gave, who tried.

Enyi

Those you left behind weep for your departed body and yearn for your presence

Enyi

Your soul is everlasting as you smile down on us among our Creator's essence.

Uchenna Okereke

Meharry Medical College 2012

## EFLECTIONS OF UNCLE ENYI

Uncle Enyi, as he was affectionately called by everyone in my immediate family, was a giant among men. He was considered by many, myself included, as the standard by which success was to be measured. Uncle Enyi was extremely accomplished and it meant a lot to have him as a role model and constant reminder that I too, can achieve. As he was my godfather, I had a special relationship with Uncle Enyi. Before I had met him in person, he religiously sent me presents on my birthday and every Christmas. As a little kid, these small gestures meant a lot to me and I painted a picture in my head of Uncle Enyi as the "ultimate uncle." When I finally met him in person, he did not disappoint. I was fascinated by Uncle Enyi's ability to work so hard yet appear as if he just come from a walk in the park. Having Uncle Enyi around helped me strive for the excellence that he had achieved in his lifetime and I can attribute a large part of my determination and individual success to my attempt at replicating his example.

Ndu Okereke Harvard University 2010





Since I was young one of the few people I've always been able to count on, was my Uncle Enyi. Being the son of parents who migrated from Nigeria, you gravitate heavily towards the few relatives around you while growing up in America. Whether it was Thanksgiving, someone's birthday, Christmas, a vacation in Jersey City, and Ibani-furo meeting, or many other reasons, we always found a way to spend time with the Okerekes during any holiday or vacation time, and Uncle Enyi would always go out of his way so that the two families would spend time together. Everytime I saw my Uncle Enyi, he always greeted me with a smile and a "secret handshake". That is what very much sums up Uncle Enyi to me. He had a warm presence, and no matter the age gap, you still felt like you could relate to him, as he would even go out of his way to learn something as little as a child's handshake. I was not the only one who felt this way, as many of my cousins felt they could relate to Uncle Enyi almost as an extension of a father figure. He was a male role-model, and a leader whom everyone looked up to. It was most evident at his 50th birthday as all my cousins and I felt that we were honoring one of the most important male figure in our lives. Perhaps what was most amazing about him, is that he was such a prominent figure to us kids growing up, that he could make a boy who loved to eat sweets and play football, actually want to be an "Orthopedic Surgeon" at the age of 10. The passing of Uncle Enyi is very unfortunate, as we are loosing so much:- an uncle, a father, a leader, a role model, and a friend. I will miss him dearly. We don't know the Lord's plan, but I guess everything happens for a reason. Wherever Uncle Enyi is now, I know he is smiling, and the next time I see him he will greet me with our handshake. May his soul rest in peace.

#### Adango Longjohn





I am shocked and still refuse to accept, let alone having the strength to think of, or refer to you in the past, you are a great loss to everyone in the family. A great Man with a Heart as bright as Gold, who on every opportunity is willing to give a helping hand. Although I never got the chance to get to know you on a personal level, a memory of you that will live in me is when I was applying to universities and both you and Aunty Tokunbo constantly drilling into my head that "Asking doesn't kill" because I was always too scared to ask for information, simply because I thought I was bothering the admission counselors. This was not just a one-time advice it was for life I am glad you played a part in teaching me that.

I will never forget the huge smile on your face, that smile definitely touched the hearts of all those who were lucky enough to meet you. It left them with a feeling of kindness and love. You will be truly missed but NEVER FORGOTTEN, because I know you are in a better place watching over us.

May Your Gentle Soul Rest In Peace.

Kingi Kingibe





FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE AM AT A TOTAL LOSS FOR WORDS!!! I do not know why you had to leave us so soon, and I shall not ask why either. You were truly one of the greatest men I have ever known. I'm not just saying that because you were my uncle. Anyone who ever had the privilege of meeting you would say the same. Your marriage to my dearest aunty Tokunbo was one that gave me hope that there is really true love in the world. I have never met a couple better suited for each other. Babes and Babes. You lived your life in a noble way and spent most of it helping others. This was not done just through your job as a doctor but in your everyday life.

#### US YOUNG BOYS ASPIRE TO GROW UP TO BE JUST LIKE YOU

The respect I have for my uncle is too great to put into words. He always pushed me to be the best person that I can be. Although he is no longer with us in a literal sense, I know that he will always be with us in spirit. Any words I use to describe him would not do justice to the kind of man he was. So I say he was the best uncle that anyone could hope for.

I PRAY that My Cherished Aunty Tokunbo, Karim, Kelechi, Your Special Kalaya, My One And Only Aunty Ndi and all the many members of your extended and immediate family (WE KNOW OURSELVES) whose lives you have touched will be comforted by the fact that you now with THE ALMIGHTY. I WILL MISS YOU TERRIBLY!!!

We all love and miss you uncle Enyi and may your soul rest in perfect peace. One thing I do know is us young boys aspire to grow up to be just like you!

I miss you terribly!!!

Saif





We have lost more than an illustrious son. Unbelievable! Inexplicable!! Unfathomable!!!

What did we do wrong, we plead for leniency to have such a hard knock, such a rude shock from a most invaluable source and at 'thanksgiving'

Chei! Akai ye! It most certainly hurts! But we thank god for giving you to us our hearts are so with tokunbo, the children and all the family

Enyi, you were such a brand, our brand Certainly, "to live in the hearts of those you love is not to die" Yes, your light is so powerful to live with us for life. We are now faced with the big challenge to walk in your serene determination to carry forth your spirit of respect, love and hope. We will miss you so much

Adeiu! Our guiding star!

Adeiu! Our pillar of hope

Adeiu! Enyi and rest in perfect peace

"who can understand the mind of the almighty from whom does he take counsel . . . . . "isaiah 40

in the words of the famous song

"ascribe greatness to our god the rock his work is perfect and all his ways are just our god of faithfulness without injustice.

True and upright is he"

Mrs. Boma Simon-Hart

For the Longjohn family

**BSH** 

### NCLE ENYI'S TRIBUTE

He left an imprint on the heart of everyone he met. Everyone of us have been influenced, inspired and affected by the man he was and the life he lived. Now our responsibility is to keep this treasure alive forever through us. I carry your heart Uncle Enyi, I carry it in my heart.

Abike Dada



### NCLE ENYI

Uncle Enyi was a great man and will be sorely missed. I miss him so much and I don't know how I am going to cope without him in my life. Rest in perfect peace Uncle Enyi, we are all praying for you and your existence has been a blessing to all of us.

Abdul Kingibe



# RIBUTE TO UNCLE ENYI

The thing that sticks in my mind the most about Uncle Enyi is how happy he made his family. We experienced the joy he brought them once we were around them or in the house, I don't remember ever seeing Aunty Tokunbo upset and it was because of Uncle Enyi. He was principled and firm, yet fun loving and approachable. He opened up his home (on many occasions even his bedroom) and his heart to everyone. I think I speak for everyone when I say we will never be able to put it all down on paper what you were in our lives.

Uncle, I don't worry about you, I pray for you and I know you are with our creator; my Aunty and cousins you left behind will never be the same, your shoes can't and never will be filled by any other. I know that if my Husband-to-be turns out to be half the husband, father, and complete man you were he will be a great man.

Rest In Peace Uncle Enyi

Ireti Dada.





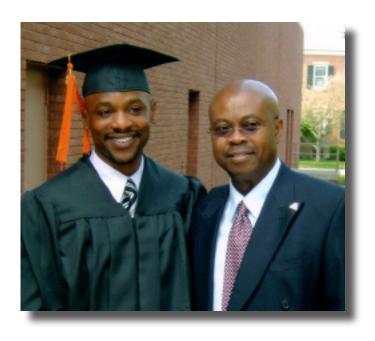
In my view personified a life of balanced success. I always watched in awe how someone who was so busy with his professional career still managed to make ample time to be with his immediate and extended family. I watched in awe at the special relationship he built with each and every member of his family. And today, I still look on in awe at how a man with such rare character who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of so many is gone so prematurely. Uncle Enyi, in his soft spoken tone with that unforgettable smile always had a way of making us feel that all would be well.

He was there for me throughout my college years in the capacity of a guardian, a mentor and a friend. He was there for me during my times of trials and my times of tribulation. Besides my parents, he was the next person that I always tried not to disappoint.

I'm certain that Uncle Enyi's demise shall not be in vain. I'm certain that our family will continue to standby and offer all the support possible to Aunty Tokunbo, Kalaya, Kelechi, and Kareem in the trying days, months and years ahead.

I raise my cap to a rare gift only made possible by the grace of the almighty. Goodbye, my Uncle, my mentor, my friend.

#### Abubakar Kingibe



### RIBUTE TO DR. ENYI OKEREKE

When a husband and father passes he leaves his children, wife and extended family behind.

In the case of Uncle Enyi, he leaves behind a life of legacy as an exceptional father, Doctor of medicine and business man. An inspirational spirit and legacy that touched upon the lives of many others beyond his family.

For the Owoade children Uncle Enyi's life has inspired us to look beyond ourselves and observe the deeds of a man who understand how God really works.

Uncle Enyi did not merely talk of God. He practiced Gods work, through his service to others.

He will therefore remain an inspirational spirit and legacy to the many whose lives he touched upon during his time and to those seeking inspiration to help others.

Uncle, we will always remember your smile and your ability to bring calm and warmth to those around you.

We are proud to honor you and promise you today that we will return the love and warmth that you showed our father, to Aunty Moriam, Karim, Kelechi and Kalaya.

from the Owoade Children





there is little to say but express the most sincere shock at this tragic event.

On the other hand, however, it seems so ironic that he was taken from us whilst pursuing his life long passion for medical service and healing others. This truly was a quiet and Great Man in many different ways. He rose above early disappointments to achieve his goal of becoming a physician. Furthermore, despite his extensive professional achievments, he remained very grounded and never was too busy to return a phone call, contribute to a social cause or be of service to others.

His committeent to medicine was equaled only by his unwavering love of his family, starting with his True Love, Tokunbo. Unfortnately, this week The Okereke Family lost one of its leaders. On the other hand, the medical community lost a true practioner that lived by the oath. Also, his friends lost one that they never had a reason to doubt his sincerity. And the world lost A True Citizen that made his short time count many more times than most.

For the priviledge of knowing Enyi Okereke, I say to his Family - "Thank you so much for sharing him and may the Good Lord continue to comfort you in this difficult time of sorrow"

Olusola O. Seriki



## OULOGY TO DR ENYI OKEREKE

Most of us take a new day for granted. We expect the dawn and a fresh morning as routine. That routine was savagely interrupted for a great man, a caring and loving dad, husband, brother, uncle, cousin, comrade, mentor and hero. To say goodbye to Enyi is as difficult as to say goodbye to oneself. Enyi was part of our lives, sharing our thoughts, jokes and experiences at all ANPA meetings and events. The reality is that life gives us no guarantees and for Enyi, his time had come. He, like all of us, had people whom he loved. He, like all of us had his dreams. Today they became shattered dreams just as our hearts too are broken. We are left to come to terms with our shock and our grief. We are stunned because we did not have time to prepare for this. We are stunned because we had no time to say goodbye. How can life suddenly become death? How can love suddenly disappear, happiness turn to sorrow and confidence turn to fear?

Why Enyi? Why? This question, none of us can answer and must therefore defer to God. It could have been any one of us. It definitely could have been me. I recall an episode of chest pain I experienced about two weeks prior to Enyi's demise while participating in an ANPA medical mission in Amachara general hospital, a remote village on the outskirts of Umuahia in Abia state. While my pain was seemingly pleuritic in nature, I still shuddered at the thought of other possibilities. I was terrified but remained calm till it subsided. Enyi was not only healthy but was known to exercise regularly. Why him? While I was in transit in London and heard of Enyi's illness on that sad day, my head suddenly became very heavy and I had to hold it in my hands in despair, gripped with fear and anger knowing that his chances like anyone else was very slim. Slim, not because of the man on the ground, but slim because of where the man fell. A place he loved so much. A place he sacrificed so much for. A place with a shattered healthcare system. A place where successive leaders fail to see the value of a healthy population. A place called Nigeria. A place Enyi struggled very much to improve through his ANPA activities. A place that will ultimately consume him because of inadequate health care system. A system that failed him the only time he needed help. It is a tragic time for us all, but more so for his family that he loved so much.

Goodbye Enyi. You will live with us forever in ANPA and beyond. Goodbye my brother. Goodbye my friend. Goodbye Professor. Goodbye my fellow old boy of Government College Umuahia. Goodbye, you hear; till we meet again. To Moriam, Karim, Kelechi and Kalaya as well as the entire members and friends of the Okereke and Lanval families, words alone cannot heal your wounds but trust in the Lord for He knows best. May He give you strength and wisdom to bear this colossal loss. Remain strong and remember that we in ANPA will always be there for you. Ndo nuo.

Bato Amu, MD

On behalf of Amu family of Atlanta, GA

# WRITE THIS SHORT TRIBUTE WITH SADNESS.

I met Enyi Okereke in 1979 when I moved from Iowa to Atlanta, Georgia. We had a common interest-- we both loved to play soccer, I mean serious, competitive soccer. We became friends after playing a few games as teammates for a first division amateur soccer league team called Atlanta United. Enyi was one of the calmer, more reliable and strongest mid-fielders on the team. He was a natural leader. I had always thought Enyi would move on to bigger and better things, so I was not surprised, when in 1982 or 1983 he calmly announced after a practice session that he was going to medical school. I remember Enyi and Tokunbo, his wife, had just met around this time. Enyi went on to medical school, and I also left Atlanta about the same time to go to law school in Hartford, Connecticut. We never heard from, or about, each other again until a few years ago when my brother, Dr. Dapo Popoola, said Enyi asked about me at one of the ANPA meetings. To Tokunbo and the children, I ask that Providence will guide and guard you during this very difficult period. I also ask that Enyi rest in eternal peace.

Sincerely,

Tayo A. Popoola, Los Angeles, CA



# NCLE ENYI, WOW!!!!!

Uncle Enyi, Wow!!!!! I am SHOCKED, CONFUSED, don't believe it's real, it can't be real, you can't be gone, so suddenly, so soon, without a notice of illness for us to use as an excuse. This can't be happening, we can't be talking about your funeral, you should be with us planning someone else's, not yours, this is crazy, it's sad, I'm sad, I'm mad. I introduced you to my own father as "My Father in America." Every time I think of you, a smile comes to my face and sadness takes it's place. Like everybody else will say, you are my mentor because you always will be. I have prayed time and again that God give me your demeanor, wisdom and strength.

This is really very difficult, I look at my boy little Enyi and all I see is you. Long before we were married, we made the decision to name our first son after you, it was never a question, we knew his name before we even conceived him. We wanted to honor you because of who you were to us, because of how you loved us, because of the kind of man you were. Your heart, as kind as ever, your generosity, too much to compare, your calmness was unmatched, your smile, your hugs and handshakes, your support... where do I end? You were not only Gigi's uncle, you were my uncle too. No more having you come over and seeing the joy you bring to my sons, Enyi and Toby, they adore you. I will make sure that they will remember you, that firm hand shake of yours that is always followed with a hug. I will always come to you when I need advise. This is a most difficult time, there is no way we can recover from your loss, but I know you would want us to get up and keep going.

We will truly miss you, your smile, love, looking cool. Your life was cut short, but it was large.

Thanks for everything you have brought to our life

Uche Ojukwu





The passing of Dr. Enyi Okereke has been so devastating and shocking that words fail us. The grief we feel can hardly be expressed. Enyi spoke to practically every member of ANPA New Jersey prior to this last visit to Nigeria. He had something to say to everyone as though to say goodbye. His voice and words resonate with us still. As a person, what can we say? Enyi was a gentleman. He had an amiable personality. His gentle way of doing things belied a steely determination to get things done. Enyi could be mistaken for being laid back until you worked with him and found out otherwise. He was an achiever. He loved what he did.

His engaging smile was ever present. He loved his family and always had fun with them. His beloved wife Moriam, was the center of his universe. As a couple they were as perfect as a couple could be, sharing private jokes and loving looks. For Moriam, the loss is profound. Take comfort in the fact that he loved you so much. He talked about you always.

Enyi joined ANPA about ten years ago. He embraced all that ANPA stands for. As his involvement increased, he was always full of ideas. He loved and believed in Nigeria. He was a visionary who saw light where there was none. The transfer of knowledge was very important to him. His cherished goal for the country was to improve the emergency care of trauma and accident victims. He spoke about this often and was working towards it. If it is any consolation, he died doing what he loved.

As our Chairman, he was always the quiet voice of reason. He always listened whilst holding his views. He led us with a gentle and embracing spirit. Enyi participated in multiple medical missions to Nigeria. During the New Jersey Chapter mission to Onitsha, Enyi treated an Okada accident victim who needed his skills and snatched this lady from the jaws of death. How ironic that the same could not have been done for him when he took ill in Enugu! We will miss him. Enyi will continue to guide us. And for Moriam and the family, you will forever be one of us.

Adieu, our gentle Chairman. As you smile down on us, continue to lead us and may your gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

Dr. Patrick Bamgboye, Acting Chairman, ANPA-NJ Chapter

For ANPA-NJ Chapter members



We met Enyi and Tokunbo in the early 1980's in Silver Spring, MD.

Enyi you were always a beautiful person, a loyal friend, a consummate family man and a brilliant professional. Our last time together was the weekend we celebrated Tokunbo's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Oh what a time that was! That weekend said all about whom you were your beautiful and generous spirit, your total devotion to family and the goodness and joy you brought out in friends were on full display. Our lives are better enriched for knowing you and we are hopeful that you were aware of how much you were loved. Your curtain in life may have come down but your light will shine eternally.

May God grant you perfect rest; angels welcome you and surround you in perfect peace. Amen

Rest in peace our friend rest in peace.

Muyiwa and Gbemi Bakare

Harrisburg, PA



# OR ENYI OKEREKE

Dearest Toks, we are deeply saddened by Enyi's loss, for you, the children and family. I don't know what to say that would bring you comfort at this time. Please know that we love you and we express our most sincere and deepest sympathy. We are truly sorry! May God grant you all peace. I hope it helps you to know that God must surely be embracing our dear Enyi at this time. We are here to support you with anything, please let us know.

Angela



### RIBUTE TO ENYI

To write a tribute to Enyi assumes the acceptance of the fact that he is no more. That is the most difficult thing with which to come to terms.. Enyi's tragic death defies all logic. At 54, he was young, he was fit, and he was a great doctor. Though the last born, he assumed responsibility and acted in every situation as if he was the first born. He worked in hospitals and operating theatres, but never spent one day there on account of his being ill. As a doctor, he was competent, respected by his peers, and cared for or arranged for all and sundry to be cared for. Enyi was serene and always calm under circumstances which make many loose their heads. He lived modestly and followed a sensible dietary regime. Definitely, he was the last candidate for a heart attack! And it speaks volumes about Nigeria's health care system and the personnel who manage it that a person who has saved so many lives could have a heart attack on Sunday and die of it over twenty four hours after, enough time to save any victim's life. What a shameful tragedy.

Alas, the bitter fact with which we all have to come to terms is that Enyi is no more. Enyi was a man who needed no other name. He was simply called Enyi and that was all that was needed to identify him. He meant so much and so many things to all of us. To me, he personified Dr. Banardo - the parentis in loco to all the children of his enormous extended family and friends. He and his "babes", my sister Moriam, ran their New-Jersey home as if it was a five star hotel. They were always ready and graciously welcomed everyone with such warmth and overwhelming generosity Indeed, rare were the days when they had no visitor in residence! Enyi loved and cared for not only his family and friends, but humanity as a whole. He was one of the initiators and a prime moving force in the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas., a group of patriotic and dedicated Nigerian doctors who give their time, money and professional expertise pro bono through their annual medical missions to Nigeria.

We shall miss the physical presence of this wonderful husband, father, brother, friend; this wonderful counsellor who like Freud or Jung gave his time and patiently listened without being judgemental to all who came to him to seek professional help or personal advice; this man who loved all and in return, was loved by all. Though no more, Enyi will live in our hearts, thoughts and prayers for ever. God bless you as he has blessed us for knowing you. Moriam, Kareem, Kalechi, and Kalaya, be strong, and as he would say to you, "you will be alright." We shall be there for you as Enyi had always been there for us.

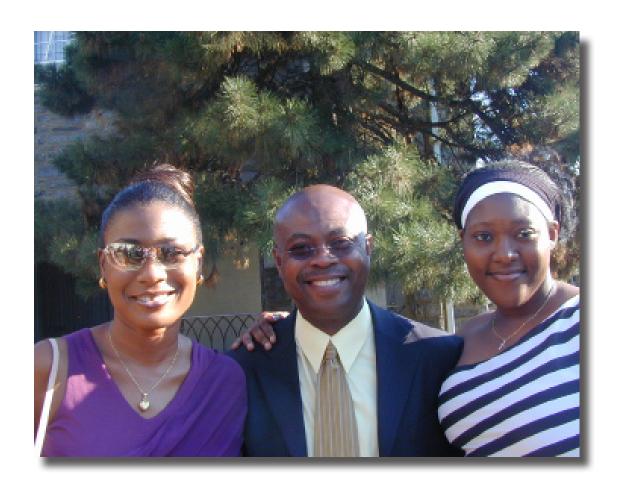
Baba Kingibe

# HE GOOD DOCTOR-"MAZI"

"Mazi" The diligent doctor for everyone. Your love for mankind and country took you to Enugu on a mission to save lives but gave up yours tragically. Mazi! The more I got to know you, the more you made me realise the essence and purpose of life that caring for one another is the best attribute one must possess. Your honesty towards others made you a rare gem. You will continue to live in our hearts forever. We will continue to love and care for Twinks, Karim, Kelechi and Kalaya as our inheritance from you.

Rest in perfect peace my BESTO.

Chief Ajibowu Owoade





Dear ANPA Members I join you all in this dark moment of mourning the death of our beloved National Treasurer, Dr Enyi Okereke. It took me time to believe that he is actually no more with us. In fact I actually had to call two diffent reliable sources to confirm that this announcement is correct, neither because of my belief in immortality of any soul nor because of my inability to accept the temporality of all live forms... but because it is so sudden and tragically dramatic.

Enyi was relatively young, healthy and active.

I just spoke to Enyi over the phone on sunday morning without a hint of deathly dirge or sign of illness. He shared with me his current project in an NGO incorporated to focus on Trauma and emergecy care in Nigeria. Enyi was in Nigeria to work toward preventing this kind of tragedy from consuming the people of Nigeria. Ironically he got consumed by the same healthcare malady he tried to eviscerate from Soul Nigerian Nation.

Enyi was with us four weeks ago at Dideolu Hospital Ikenne Ogun state for Free Medical mission organized by Oakmerit Health Sytems. He voluteered his time, transported himself there with his own resources. He shared with me his planned medical Mission to Maiduguri this month. At the time of his death he was helping to train Nigerian Surgeons on the latest modality of minimally invasive surgical proceedures.

In summary Enyi Died in ACTIVE DUTY!

May his soul rest in perfect peace, amen!

Abdulateef O. Kareem MD, M.P.H

Oakmerit Healthcare S.C.

Global Campaign for Development in Africa



Dearly by his darling wife Toks, children and all that knew him. Enyi was selfless, compassionate, a great listener and dependable. The phrase "larger than life" is often used to describe people who seem to live their life a notch above the rest of us. This could certainly be applied to Enyi Okereke, MD in terms of his many achievements and the profound impact he made on the Pennsylvania Health Care System and in Nigeria where he came to make the same impact when he met his untimely death.

Enyi was one of those many people who could do many things well. He was an outstanding Pharmacist, Orthopedic Surgeon, Teacher, Husband and Father. He was a Teacher/Mentor par excellence both in his formal role as a professor of Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in Philadelphia and in his interactions with his colleagues, his numerous nieces and nephews.

It is now time for ANPA, UNTH where he met his sudden death and those of us who love Enyi in our ways, to pick up the torch and carry his mission and vision on. It is the best way for us to honor him and the inspiration that he provide in most of us.

Gone is a brother, husband, father and grandfather. Loved by all, his soul is now at rest. He will sleep at peace, his work is done, a father's work-the best. Our heart may grieve that he must beneath the sacred sod, and yet we know he lives in peace within the house of God.

Sleep well and rest in perfect peace in the bosom of God.

Princess Philomena Desmond-Ogugua





The shock and after-shocks following the news of Enyi's death continue and will be with us forever. With Enyi's death, we have lost one of our finest who served ANPA with Love and Devotion and all the tributes attest to this.

We remain extremely distressed but take solace that God has a purpose for him that we cannot question. What is 'life'? It is not how long we live but how well we do. Enyi's candle was well lit even though brief, he has played his part on Earth's stage and is gone for us to continue where he has left.

To Moriam, his kids and family, God will give you the energy to bear this great loss and take heart that your loved is sleeping in the hands of the Lord.

Goodnight Enyi.

Mike and Tokunbo Etomi





You were and still are a blessing to everyone that knew you.

You always seemed to have a smile, a kind word, a loving gesture or a thoughtful advice for everyone you came in contact with. It didn't matter if the person was family, a friend or a stranger.

I never heard you raise your voice at anyone or anything. It was as if your smile was permanently fixed on your face as you went about relentlessly solving everybody's problems.

As I bow to the sovereignty of God, trusting Him and his decisions completely; there is that tiny bit of me that wishes you could have stayed a bit longer. The truth is that we all still had a lot to learn from you Uncle Enyi! You still had so much to give!

Rest in peace dear Uncle, Rest in peace!

#### Omokehinde Ojomuyide





Around me the images of thirty years..

Think where man's glory most begins and ends, and say my glory was I had such friends.

Uncle Enyi, ever so calm, one of the calmest people I have ever come across in my life, I pray that if I ever marry may the man be as calm as you.

For me, death is not the end of life but the beginning. As you journey to meet our creator, may He guide and illumine you with his light.

We know that you are now spirit and so you are everywhere present. I know you will always be with Aunty Tokunbo even in death as you were in life.

Go in peace and may the good Lord go with you.

Amen.

From Helen Wilcox





This sudden passing of our friend, and ANPA brother, Enyi, remains like a bad dream. I'm still hoping to wake up from my slumber with a deep sigh of relief that it truely was a bad dream. Can someone please tell me that it was a November Fools Day. I'm still struggling to accept that this news is a reality.

Enyi was the last person you would think this could happen to. He was very health conscious and looked as fit as a fiddle all the time.

ANPA has again lost a very dedicated and committed member.

Enyi epitomized a gentleman. A man of few words; very humble and unassuming; a doer then a talker. We shall miss you dearly, my friend. You touched the lives of everyone in your path. Even though you've been called home, your good work and kindness will remain evergreen in our hearts.

To Moriam, the children, and the loved ones left behind - The Good Lord will give you all wisdom and courage to bear the loss.

Enyi, rest in peace. Amen!

Vincent & Rita



# NCLE ENYI WAS

honestly one of the best people I ever had the privilege to know and was one of the biggest blessings in my life. Because of him, I know what a great father and husband looks like. His love and generosity were endless. He walked into a room and you couldn't help but smile. I loved him like a father and feel so incredibly blessed to know that God gave us this Angel for 54 years.

I will miss him every day of my life. I'll miss his laugh, his big smile, the way he would roll around on the floor with Isaiah (even if he was wearing a suit ©), the way he was always happy to see me no matter what time of day I would randomly show up. I love you Uncle Enyi. I am a better spouse, parent, daughter, person for having had you in my life and for that I will forever be blessed.

I know you are watching out for us still and I hope the way we all live the rest of our lives continues to make you proud and honor your memory.

#### Nkechi Carroll





As we walked through the campus of Columbia University together with Ngozi Nwaneri and Chuma Ozumba, Enyi in very few words shared with us his plans towards improving healthcare delivery in the upcoming months. 'What a guy' I remised to myself, in admiration of his ideals.

Enyi died in the line of duty-a duty to empowering a 'healthier Nigeria in a healthier world'.

It is tragic that Enyi's last moments and cry for help was in the very institution he has supported over the years, especially through his unflinching support to the alumni association of the University of Nigeria college of Medicine.

To Moriam and the children we pray that God will give you the support, as you grief the loss of this great man, husband and father

To Enyi, may your soul rest in perfect peace with the Lord. Your legacy lives on.

From,

Rosemary and Obi Maduka





WE WILL MISS YOU ENYI



Enyi your sudden departure has left those of us who are your close friends and colleagues in such a devastating state of confusion that will take time to clear.

We spoke right before you boarded your flight for Nigeria and you called me again while "killing time" in London waiting to board your connecting flight to Lagos . I had no idea that was to be our last conversation.

You brought such energy to everything you were involved in and especially the medical missions. Such energy made things happen. I watched you patch together an Okada accident victim at our Onitsha medical mission and literally snatched that patient back from the jaws of death. That I will never forget.

You practiced your specialty with such excellence that will live in the memory of all who worked with you. This part of you is lost for ever and will be greatly missed. In the place of frustration with the rot in 20the Nigerian health system, you displayed a unique urgency in your enthusiasm to fix it. In retrospect I now think you must have had the premonition that you did not have enough time to accomplish this monumental goal.

Enyi, God must have really wanted you back otherwise why did this have to happen to you at a time and place where you could not put up a good fight. It is indeed ironic that you were helpless when the cold hands of death snuck up on you. I have confidence that God called you back to the comfort of his kingdom.

My family and I will miss you, the entire ANPA family will miss you and your friends at Nashville Capital partners will miss you. The whole tribe of medical students and residents who looked up to you for their training and guidance will miss you.

My assurance to you my friend is that we will strive to continue this journey from where you left it.

Moriam, Karim, Kelechi and Kalaya will greatly miss you but be reassured that we will continue as one united ANPA family. You were a gentleman, an orthopod par excellence, a dear friend, a colleague and a business partner.

Best In Peace Dear Friend.

Dr.Chike J. Aguh

Mrs. Oby G. Aguh

And Chike Aguh Jr.,

# RIBUTE TO ENYI OKEREKE, MD

I first got the privilege to meet Enyi Okereke at the ANPA Convention in New Jersey, 2006. I was greatly impressed from afar with how he, his family and colleagues from the New Jersey chapter bustled around making sure the convention was a great success. They acted as terrific hosts, going above and beyond to ensure our utmost comfort and made emphatically sure we had a fabulous time. I also remember him contesting unsuccessfully for "president-elect" that year and being "wowed" by his outstanding accolades.

This past summer at the Charlotte convention, his wife Moriam approached me to attend a seminar about a health product line she was pitching. Enyi was present at this meeting to support his wife and went on to give a memorable testimony about how he had taken ownership of his health at his wife's persistence. He and his wife had become health conscious and were visibly, doing their part to live long, fulfilled, healthy lives. Collectively, their charm, youthfulness, vibrance, energy and exuberance followed them wherever they went. They both looked 10 – 15 years younger than their stated ages and their strategy appeared to be an unbeatable one. I probed them to find out their secrets for looking and feeling good, staying healthy and being successful in their endeavors. They in fact became my "gold standard." I subsequently developed a relationship with Moriam and was kept abreast of Enyi's activities through my contact with her. Like everyone else, I most remember his "gentle smile" that symbolized his person.

Never in a million years would it occur to me that his life would be cut short so abruptly. I am just shocked beyond belief. If someone like Enyi Okereke who epitomized health could drop dead....? I just don't know! Is it true that we cannot change destiny no matter how hard we try? All I can say is that it is comforting to know that Enyi's legacy will assuredly live on. His outstanding contributions to medicine, ANPA and Nigeria will be undoubtedly be built upon for generations to come. Those who are left behind can only hold on to the hard fact that "it is not how long you live, but how well you live" It is my prayer that we learn from his exemplary life and realize that "life itself is a gift" and "tomorrow is promised to no one."

To his immediate family. Even though you loved him so dearly, God loved him more. I pray that God gives you the strength and comfort to bear this tragic loss and remember that "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." Amen.

Adaora Okonkwo Ogbuefi, MD

ANPA Member

Chicago, IL



From what I know, observed and have heard from family, friends and all I have met from all works of life, I realize we have lost a saint. You have touched so many people with your kindness and selflessness; you truly will never be forgotten. A giant amongst men, you represent unfathomable inspiration, dedication, strength, comfort and love to all like myself who are eternally blessed to have met you. I will miss you endlessly.

Olu Dada





I don't know where to start from. Over the past couple of years, your work here in Nigeria gave me a chance to witness firsthand the wonderful uncle Enyi everyone talks about. I know my sister Tokunbo as a nice, loving and extremely kind person, and I could only imagine her to be with someone really special.

My interactions with Kelechi, Karim and even Kamal whenever he spoke about you gave me an idea of the kind of man you are and the kind of men you were grooming.

From that point on I wished I got to know you earlier and I'm still envious I didn't have a share of MY UN-CLE ENYI. But I do. You've left me with your widow and her children who are the offspring's of your good nature.

I have learnt as I do know that life is short and it is not how long but how well you have lived.

Thank you sir, I hope to live a life as good as yours.

Murtala Lanval





As difficult as the news of your death is, we know you are in a better place. From our days in Baptist High School to when our kids were growing up together; Kelechi & Sefi and Kalaya & Jamie, we have shared quite a bit of history together....history that both Halima & I cherished. True to form, you died doing what you loved doing - saving lives. We shall meet again to part no more. May the legacy and fond memories that you left behind be a source of comfort to those that know and love you, especially, your Babes 'Toks'. May your gentle soul rest in perfect peace!

Waribo 'Nick' Adasi

Halima Adasi



WE WILL MISS YOU ENYI



Death strikes again! Enyi Okereke; husband, father, colleague, a dear member of the ANPA family, and a close personal friend has been snatched from us, oh so prematurely. Enyi became a victim of the dilapidated Nigeria health system he so passionately tried to help fix.....a cruel irony of fate indeed.

I became closely acquainted with Enyi Okereke in 2002 during the Kaduna medical mission .Though he had done much volunteer work in Nigeria through his Institution, U-PEN, he was convinced that a whole lot more could be done for Nigeria's health system through an organization like ANPA. He shared ANPA's vision and was eager and fully prepared to help actualize it. Though his bid for ANPA presidency was unsuccessful, he remained committed to the Ideals of the organization, and contributed wherever he could. Julius, our sitting President can attest to Enyi's enthusiasm about the forthcoming Abuja conference because he believed it's in keeping with our vision of a healthier Nigeria. There are some grief that are so great that they have to be shared. We grieve today, as ANPA members because the hand of tragedy has touched us all......All death is tragic, if it were not so life itself would be meaningless, still, death hits hardest when it's victim is Dr. Enyi Okereke, simply, a perfect Gentleman. From what I know of Enyi, I can attest here, and now that:

"His life was gentle, and the elements

So mixed in him that Nature might stand up

And say to all the world, THIS WAS A GENTLEMAN.'

Mark Anthony.

I pray the Good Lord grant the Okereke family the strength to carry on.

Rest in Peace my Good fellow.

Ka mkpuru obi ya no n'udo

Sun re o

Olusegun Salako MD

ANPA family member.



Dear Moriam (Tokunbo), Kelechi, Kalaya,

Words cannot express how shocked and sad we felt about the loss of Enyi.No doubt he was an Angel planted among us to do certain things that the creator wanted. Myself and the whole ANPA family will agree that those duties were well carried out.

Please accept our condolences,we are praying for you and the family.God will give you strenght during this period and the rest of your lives.

May Enyi's gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

Dapo&Lillie Popoola.

Dapo Popoola, M.D.



## EAR DR. ENYI OKEREKE'S FAMILY:

Death is so unfair. Words cannot express how numb, sad and dejected we were upon learning of Enyi's untimely death. May God show the family he left behind a define favor. We will miss his wonderful smile. We know your Enyi is gone to a better place. May God rest his soul in perfect peace.

With Sincere Condolence,

Johnson Adeyanju, MD and Mrs. Christina Adeyanju



WE WILL MISS YOU ENYI

# ONYI, THE UNOBTRUSIVE

But significant role you played in our lives, especially when it came to medical issues and major education, career and even life decisions one had to make regarding all the children can only be appreciated in retrospect. We depended on you far more than we realised. Your firm yet quiet mien, your single-mindedness, your subtle sense of humour, your amazing wisdom and wise counsel will be sorely missed.

Memories, spanning more than 25 years, from Atlanta to the most recent blast we had in the Bahamas, (especially your advice on Sadiq's rugby injury to his finger -though I'm not sure I was meant to hear all of it!!!!), will remain with us forever.

However, the way you so completely loved your wife, my friend Tokunbo, with such rare understanding of the essence of her, is what I shall remember you most for. I pray God grants her, Karim, Kelechi and Kalaya, (and indeed the entire extended family you so readily embraced), the fortitude to go on, despite this HUGE loss in their lives.

Our fondest thoughts go with you; we are blessed to have known you!

Fatima, Luqman, Sadiq and Farouq





Enyi, Just a few days ago, November 13 to be exact
In a Medical Conference, Columbia University, New York
You told me that
"life is very short and you had yet many things to see and do"
Although I heard you loud and clear
I just didn't get it --- until that fateful day, November 24

Your life was so full and yet just a brief shining moment
You have touched many lives of man
Man afflicted and in pain the World over and
Never failed to lend a hand where or whenever needed.
Improving the healthcare in Nigeria was not just a priority but your passion.
You are the epitome of man.

What a loss to your family and the rest of us who loved you unconditionally. If love alone could have saved you You never would have left us
To the Association of the Nigerian Physicians in the Americas (ANPA) your loss is irreplaceable and your position forever a void

To us you left behind especially your dear wife, Moriam Your loving children Karim, Kelechi and Kalaya we must be comforted in that you have gone Gone to meet your maker, the God Almighty.

God has you safe in his keeping but We'll have you forever in our hearts. Goodbye, Enyi ..... 'till we meet again!!

Ngozika J. Nwaneri, MD, FRCS, FACS Consultant Heart Surgeon, Howard University Hospital, Washington DC USA Member, ANPA

# RIBUTE TO ENYI OKEREKE, M.D.

When I heard about Enyi's death, I was motionless. I have remained numb and speechless. We last met on November 12, 2008, for dinner at which time I handed over the ANPA National Treasurer's documents to him. We had fun and talked at length and he told me he was returning to Nigeria in one week. I emphasized the fact that in order to be a part of change in Nigeria one needed to spend substantial amount of time on the grounds in Nigeria and agreed with me and he said this was a major part of his decision for embarking on his present efforts.

I started a relationship with Enyi when I was elected the first chairman of ANPA New Jersey in 2000. He was very enthusiastic about contributing to changes in the healthcare in Nigeria. We had our first medical mission together at Kaduna in 2003 with Dr. Segun Salako and Dr. Bato Amu. The experience together was great. We were hosted for dinner during one of the evenings by Baba Kingibe. This was the beginning of an eye opening experience for me at that time especially after being out of the country for about 30 years. We continued this enthusiastic relationship whereby I nominated him to the National Executive Board of ANPA from New Jersey and he had since not disappointed me.

We went together to the medical mission that I led to Onitsha Anambra State in 2005, soon after he was elected Chairman-ANPA New Jersey which was immediately following my tenure. We had a wonderful time. Enyi saved a traumatized Okada patient left for dead during this mission. This was a late evening arrival patient with no amenities or finances available and Enyi forged all kinds of medical maneuvers to save this patients life.

We share similar passions reflected by the ANPA mission statement of "a healthier Nigeria in a healthier world". Enyi was amongst individuals that introduced me to important people in Nigeria that can assist in implementation of our common desires.

I will very much miss you Enyi, we may not always agree at the onset as regards approaches to situations but we always came to a common agreement by the end of the day. He always said Niyi "I have not thought your approach will work but I give it to you, you always pulled things out in a remarkable way". I have always appreciated this comment from him and will forever now miss it.

Moriam, I don't know what exactly to say now, but I will sincerely say, your ANPA family in New Jersey and especially me and my family will always be there for you and the children. Being a part of an important organization that Enyi belonged I will promise you my continued effort to make sure his passion was not in vain. His legacy will continue.

To a dear colleague, a loving father, dear husband, and a fellow advocate for the voiceless, the needy and the helpless, I will miss you and your ANPA family of USA New Jersey Chapter, will miss you.

Farewell,

Rest in Peace, dear brother and friend.

Adeniyi Ogunkoya MD.

Immediate past Chairman ANPA-New Jersey

Immediate past Treasurer ANPA-National



## ALUTE TO ENYI OKEREKE, PHARM D, MD., FACS

My dear friends, colleagues and fellow Nigerians, my heart is as heavy as yours as I pen this salute and greeting to our departed friend and colleague, Dr Enyi Okereke. Our grief and sorrow are deep and numbing and I wish to convey to Moriam and the entire extended family that words cannot adequately express our heartfelt condolences to you at this time. In a different dimension, we too, his ANPA family have been in need of consolation.

When I remember Enyi, three words come to mind: passion, talent, perseverance. Enyi was a genuine, passionate, talented and dedicated colleague and friend. Simply stated, he gave, and gave and gave. In his time with us at ANPA [Assoc. of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas], he distinguished himself in the service of our association and the fulfillment of its goals and mission. He worked tirelessly to improve our Education and Program committees for several years. But it was on our much vaunted Medical Missions committee that he shone with especial distinction. He not only served but also was a leader on several missions. Enyi did a lot of the "heavy lifting" needed to get thing done. None would dispute that he was easily among the top three volunteers in our medical mission program over the past 5 years, all the while holding a faculty position [Professor] at an Ivy league medical school.It is a testament of his commitment to the ANPA mission that he spent a great deal of this "sabathical year" [off his academic duties] working for the advancement and improvement of healthcare in Nigeria.

Enyi Okereke has made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of our collective vision to create "A healthier Nigeria in a healthier World". The irony of it all is as painful and palpable as it is profound.

I "met" Enyi "up close and personal" during the planning of the 2005 ANPA convention in Nashville , Tennessee, when I was ANPA President. I worked closely with Enyi Okereke and Dr Bamigboye [Nashville, TN]. Enyi was an ideas man, a resourceful and strategic thinker and the ultimate team player. I wish to acknowledge as one conversant with that event that he contributed in a large measure to the success of that convention, especially as it signaled the beginning of the now growing and mutually rewarding relationship between ANPA and the Nigerian financial and health sectors. As always, Enyi Okereke ["le gentile homme"] was willing to take the blame for any shortcomings and give the credit for any successes to others.

However the casual reader must not conclude that Enyi was all business and drudgery and no fun .There was also the very social Enyi. He could be intense atimes when trying to get a point across, as most surgeons are wont to be . At such times he spoke in a higher octave! .But he charmed friends and strangers alike with his wit and warmth. His wit was as dry as a January harmattan wind. I can still see that ready grin with the age-defying twinkle in his eyes laden with mischief! Interestingly,that grin always got wider and his body language more deferential whenever his beloved Moriam joined the group.

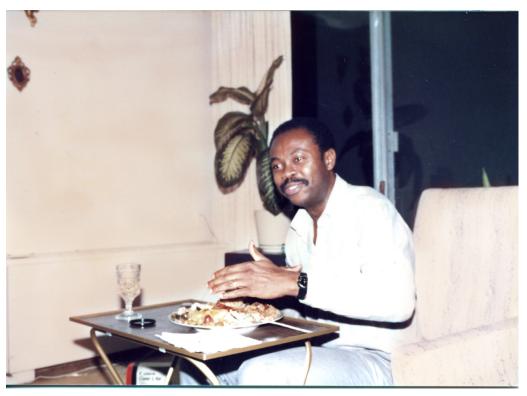
God blessed us with a man of great passion and compassion, and an incomparable bundle of talent, energy and intellect. We are all fortunate to have known him. Although our loss is tremendous, what he gave us was immeasurable. Difficult as it will be, we will cherish his legacy which will forever remind us of the "endless possibilities of what could be".

Do not be tempted as I have been, to ask, "why do bad things happen to good people". May your faith remind you, as mine has, that only in heaven can we expect that only good things will happen to good people. Ours is still an imperfect world and place. Our ANPA firmament tonight is dim and glows less brightly because one of our stars is gone, like a meteorite on a moonless night. But his luminescence no matter how transient will shine on in our collective consciousness.

And so I salute Dr Enyi Okereke, a beloved son, brother, devoted husband, father, colleague and a friend for the ages.

Chineke nara mkpuru obi gi.

Emmanuel Okafor, MD, MPH. & family





The Enyi we knew was a soft-spoken complete Gentleman.

He was very highly principled and very private.

He always stood his ground but in a disarming way.

He was very tolerant of criticism and did not get upset if you disagreed with him.

He believed in friendship and held his friends to a high esteem.

He never let differences in opinions get between him and cherished friendships.

He was a man of all people and a man of all seasons.

Even though he is no longer with us, he left behind a lot of surrogates.

Moriam, you will see him no more but you will always see the wonderful world

he created by virtue of who he was.

Kareem, Kelechi and Kalaya, Dad is no longer physically here with you, but he left you with so many Fathers especially among the ANPA family.

Take heart for you will never be alone.

Be happy with him because he believed in giving back,

and he died while trying to create a better world for others.

May his soul rest in perfect peace. Amen.

Akin and Esther Kuyinu

# TRIBUTE TO MY DEAR UNCLE ENYI

My dear Uncle Enyi, you were a 'GREAT MAN'. You showed me love and treated me like your very own. You were ever so warm and caring. You were an embodiment of what a 'TRUE UNCLE' should be. Your death has left a big hole in my heart. I will miss you so so much. I cannot question God. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to have met you. Your good qualities rubbed off on me and I will pass it on to Daibi. I will tell him of the great man that you were. Thank you for being part of my life. I promise you that my new family, which you helped lay its foundation, will grow in love just as you have shown us. You will never be forgotten. Adieu my dear Uncle Enyi

Ebere Gogo-Kurubo.





Dear Moriam, Kareem, Kelechi, Kalaya and the Okereke family,

It is with indescribable sadness, profound grief and a deep sense of loss that we join together to write this tribute on behalf of our dear friend and colleague Enyi. It is with tremendous regret that we are unable to be with you personally to both celebrate and mourn Enyi's life. Please know that we are with you spiritually and pray for you all at this time of overwhelming and unexpected sadness.

For many of us our first acquaintance with Enyi was in August 1983 when we all eagerly matriculated at Howard University College of Medicine- the class of 1987. Several of us were fortunate to have been in his rotating group in the clinical years. Others were study partners or sat adjacent to him in class during our didactic years. Yet another small group of us were privileged and blessed enough to become lifelong friends of Enyi or "Doc" as we affectionately called him- sharing milestones, family events, accomplishments (both personal and professional), and reunions at clinical meetings.

Enyi by all rights was an incredible individual. He was quick witted and loved to laugh. Brilliant academically, he graduated at the top of the class with many accolades and much recognition in 1987. While brilliant and gifted surgically, Enyi remained humble and approachable. "Doc" was an undesignated leader in our class. He was always the hard working professional, striving for excellence in himself and others. He was a good listener-contemplative and insightful. He was looked on to give the final word in debates, teased about the "wisdom" of his years. He guided and led with integrity and grace, becoming teacher, confidante and friend as the situation warranted. Enyi balanced this with his devotion to his immediate and extended family. His caring and commitment extended beyond the walls of the classroom while staying close to his roots.

Enyi had an unwavering determination and sense of self and he had the ability to have you believe in yourself also. His death brings into sharp focus the ultimate sacrifice he made while following his dream, but we all know that he would have it no other way.

We are proud to call him friend and mentor. He was a good husband, father, uncle, brother, caring teacher, ultimate professional and a fine gentleman. We will always respect and love him.

May his soul rest in peace.

## WE LOVE YOU "DOC"

Karen, Kevin and Sharon on behalf of the Howard Medical School class of 1987.

# OULOGY FOR DR. ENYI OKEREKE

It is with great sorrow and grave hearts that we, members of Nashville Capital Partners, mourn our fallen friend and business partner, Dr. Enyi Okereke. It is, in fact, difficult to comprehend Enyi's untimely death. Over the last several days, we have all been on the phone with each other, sharing the profound grief and sense of loss that we all feel. In his relatively short life, Enyi touched and influenced many of us; and we will cherish his friendship, leadership, and visionary approach to life.

In the fall of 2005, Enyi led the formation of Nashville Capital Partners, a group of Nigeria physicians based in the United States, dedicated to investing in Nigerian opportunities. Nashville Capital Partners subsequently became a major investor in Transcorp. As a group, we interacted frequently with each other and Enyi's contributions and leadership qualities were unmistakable. Behind his quiet demeanor was a steely determination to get things done and achieve results. On several occasions when we start to digress during meetings, it was usually Enyi who would often say "guys – lets focus". Enyi truly believed in the "promise" of Nigeria and convinced many of us to get involved and contribute towards building a better nation for our children and grandchildren. He died following his passion and doing what he believed was necessary to move Nigeria forward.

Enyi had too many exemplary qualities. As a friend, he was classy, sophisticated and interesting to be around. You can be sure to be offered a fine bottle of wine, champagne or cognac any time you went to visit him at his home in New Jersey. More importantly, he was always there to lend support and a compassionate ear to his friends. As a family man, Enyi was an outstanding husband and father who loved and cherished his family dearly. His lovely wife, Moriam, and children, should take solace in the impeccable legacy he has left behind. As a physician, Enyi was one of the finest, having attained the pinnacle of his chosen profession to become Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at University of Pennsylvania, one America's premier Teaching Hospitals.

Enyi's departure from us has left a void that is difficult to fill. We can still hear his calm and reasoned voice, and his laughs. We have lost a great man and an extraordinary individual.

Good bye Enyi. We will see you on the other side.

Dr. Linus N. Igwemezie

On behalf of Nashville Capital Partners, Ltd



A wise man, a son, a brother, a husband, a father and a friend.

Good and always caring and ready with useful answers. Always ready to help and never losing patience. Great thinker that is always ready to discuss issues is sensible detail. A great family man, both father and friend to his family.

Prof. Enyi Okereke. My Doc!

It is impossible to explain my feeling of personal loss of a big brother and a true friend. What is the explanation? How do we reconcile our loss? It's all like a cruel joke. Maybe a dream? But we've been waking up for the past few days to realise how cruel reality can oftentimes be. Then we sit quietly alone, and many times with loved ones and remember our friend, brother, father and husband and ponder the gravity of our loss.

We remember the warm caring man. The friend indeed whenever there was need. We remember the family man that set examples for us younger family men. We remember your smile and see you smiling even now. We remember your patience and willingness to help all. We remember your friendship and its true sincere nature. I remember all the advise and discussions that have made me a better person. I will never forget the man that should still now be with us and in many ways will always remain with us.

He was such a big personality. All that knew him loved him sincerely and always will. We must take comfort in the quality of people he has left behind: A family that exemplifies his nature. Friends that carry his memories forever. We where all touched by an angel. He lives on in all of us and shows us his spirit is ever present. Never will he be forgotten.

Dr. Frederick O. Igbinedion

# NYI YOU LEFT A LEGACY

Enyi it was on the 8th of November we sat together at a wedding, and for the first time in a long time we had a very long chat, the type we used to have when we were growing up in secondary school. We took pictures together which have now become souvenirs for me, little did I know that I was having a farewell banquet. Our conversation still rings bells in my mind. You had no time to complete the ideas and plans but I have handed them over to God Almighty to complete. He knows all you stand for and has the powers to fulfil them. In his presence nothing is hidden. Rest my brother. I know you are with the Angels. You departed doing what you Love best "HELPING HUMANITY" You left a Legacy worthy of emulation. We thank God for your good life.

Tamuno Inana Fini

Ibinye Buari-Brown



## R. ENYI OKEREKE, ONE OF THE FINEST MEN...

I had the audacity 18 years ago because I was friends with your wife's sister to pack up my bag from Hershey, Pennsylvania and with only a few hours notice I showed up at your doorstep in Philadelphia. You and your wife Tokunbo, bless her sweetheart opened your door, welcomed and befriended me like we had known each other from childhood. That was the beginning of a life time friendship. You instantly too took on you my medical care.

I got on the phone very freely in Philly for any medical advice or opinion and you very gladly extended your arm of help and actually followed up with me like a big brother. Thank you, Enyi. One thing that I found most intriguing about you though was how you managed to embody such immense intelligence, hard work, success charming personality and yet epitomize so much genuine humility.

You were rare specie. It was very touching too to see how dedicated you were to your wife, kids and myriads of other people whom you came across. No words really can express how much you will be missed by your family and all who knew you. What a way to go home though, you left here a hero, saving lives; exactly what Jesus would do.

May you rest in perfect peace.

Ajike Oyin Ajala



# R. ENYI OKEREKE, MD - TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF THE ORTHOPAEDIC RESIDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Dr. Okereke has been an integral part of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania for over two decades since 1987, both as a resident and as an Attending. This year would have completed his 15<sup>th</sup> year in the health system as a member of the faculty. Over 100 orthopaedic residents have had the privilege to train with Dr. Okereke and now will take the opportunity to carry out his legacy in several forms. It is extremely difficult to accurately depict what Dr. Okereke has meant to the residents over the last 20 years, but we'll try our best to articulate what this amazing man has represented.

Dr. Okereke was commonly referred to as the International Man of Mystery by his residents. It was not uncommon to see him at the hospital Monday morning and in the midst of small talk regarding the past weekend, you'd quickly realize that he has just returned from a 4 day trip that took him through Italy, Tunisia and Brazil while making it back in time for his 7:30 am case – and of course, he would have 8 cases scheduled for that day. And at the end of the day, it was customary to collect medical/orthopaedic devices and equipment that would normally be discarded so they could be sterilized and used for his next medical mission.

Residents were often disappointed to hear that Dr. Okereke was going to be away for a few weeks during their rotation – this was standard practice. His absence was undoubtedly due to his passion for helping the underprivileged and making a difference in the arena of global health (specifically for the Nation of Nigeria). However, it was difficult to avoid channeling this disappointment into inspiration when attaining a full understanding of what was important to him.

Dr. Okereke possessed such an incredible energy and love for life – it was evident with each and every smile. He always exuded a natural vigor, never paralleled by another. It was impossible to avoid being inspired by his words, and more importantly by his actions. His selfless acts for his family, his patients, and for us, his residents, continued to leave everyone that came in contact with him in a state of amazement. He worked extremely hard at providing excellent care for his patients, and he expected the same from his residents. His generosity was abundant and he always led by example.

His ability to be a mentor was second to none – there was always so much to learn from him, both inside and outside of the operating room. His ability to achieve life balance was without a doubt his most important lesson to teach. His words of wisdom will always echo in our minds and in our hearts.

"No matter how successful you are in any industry, the hardest thing that you will ever work toward is achieving life balance. Never lose perspective – that is the key to attaining happiness."

Dr. Okereke will be sorely missed but his teachings will forge ahead through us, his residents. We thank him for his tutelage, and we'll do our best to perpetuate the values and skills he has bestowed upon us. If we have the good fortune of being able to touch the lives of  $1/1000^{th}$  the number of people as Dr. Okereke has with such sterling character and grace, we have lived our lives right. We wish his family well, and they will always be in our thoughts.

Neil Sheth, MD

Orthopaedic Surgery Resident

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

November 30, 2008



# OULOGY TO ENYI OKEREKE, MD.

Enyi Okereke, husband, father, uncle, brother, mentor, comrade and colleague passed into Eternity on Monday November 24th 2008. It has been four days since I spoke to his treating physician on the telephone at University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital Enugu, prior to his passing. I am only now able to put pen to paper in the midst of this emotional catharsis of a grief that will likely see no end.

That day...., beginning as a seemingly normal day at work for me in Charlotte NC..., unraveled into a day of frantic phone calls between New Jersey, Charlotte, Enugu and Lagos..., leading to gradual despair, desperation, bewilderment and eventual grief.

Enyi Okereke, the orthopedic surgeon par excellence, devoted and committed foot soldier of the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas (ANPA) ..., unexpectedly, prematurely and so abruptly tragically..., left us in shock. Perplexed, stunned and emotionally paralyzed.

An eminently treatable medical problem, if only he were in a different place and at a different time. Why Enyi, and why did it have to happen to him when he was in a place without the required medical resources to treat a treatable condition?

Yet again, another unnecessary loss of human life in Nigeria. Loss of one with so much vigor, energy, promise and potential. Yet again, another victim of a Nigerian health system gone wrong. A health system gone wrong, not because of the lack of intellectual resources. Gone wrong, as a consequence of a country that ascribes little premium to the value of human life and the human spirit.

In all spheres of Enyi's personal or professional activities, it is a testament of his person and character that he amassed a large bounty of professional, moral and emotional capital. Enyi was an accomplished medical professional, teacher and mentor. He was respected and liked by his colleagues, medical residents', medical students and his patients. His professional achievements were many. He was an Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, and Chief of the Foot and Ankle Service at the University of Pennsylvania. He was Vice President of the Philadelphia Orthopedic Society. We should not forget that before he went to medical school, he had already received a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree.

He was a longtime and active ANPA member. He was the current Chairman of the ANPA New Jersey Chapter, a current member of the ANPA Board of Directors and its Executive Committee, and was the National ANPA Treasurer and an aspiring future ANPA President.

Some of us got to know him personally through, and even beyond ANPA. Several of us knew him the best through his activities within ANPA, an organization which he grew to love. As the immediate Past President

WE WILL MISS YOU ENYI

of ANPA, I can attest to the deliberate, thoughtful, responsible, mature and constructive nature of his presence on the ANPA Board of Directors and its Executive Committee.

He was so passionate about ANPA's Mission and its potential, that he had dedicated much of his recent professional time into developing programs to enhance healthcare delivery in Nigeria. Indeed, he was in Enugu at the time of this catastrophe as part of an ANPA US/ Canadian based orthopedic team, training Nigerian surgeons in specialized arthroscopic techniques in orthopedic surgery. It is a paradox that he became a victim of the inadequacies of the very healthcare system he was so very committed to improve.

Most of all, Enyi was a devoted and dedicated family man. My wife Shirley and I last saw Enyi this past August in the Bahamas where he had invited several friends and family from all over the world to celebrate the 50th birthday of his wife Moriam Tokunbo (nee Lanval).

That was a memorable weekend. A weekend replete with family love, rekindling of old friendships, development of new relationships, collegiality, camaraderie and a lot of fun. Through it all, Enyi reveled, basked and glowed in the palpable and effervescent love that was evident towards his dear wife Moriam, surrounded by their children..., all this shared in the doting presence of the Okereke/ Lanval extended family and friends.

It is an often spoken of paradox of life, that one does not frequently enough applaud those who are living, for their good deeds done when they are still alive. Indeed, it is a human failing not to verbalize enough the value of relationships we share with our fellow men and women while they are still in this earthly existence. Regrettably, humanity is prone to not appreciate what one has..., until it is lost forever. It is disheartening to have to provide high praise or commendations of greatness only after the departed have passed on.

"Man" should have the wisdom to realize that life is best measured not by "how long" we live, but rather by "how well" we have learned to live. A person's life should be measured not by what one's material possessions in life, but more so by the moral richness that one lived and left behind on earth. It would appear from all indications that Enyi, our "friend and colleague", left behind a reservoir of moral capital, and that he lived "well" in the service of mankind, and in the love of his family, his profession and his country.

Only one thing is certain in life..., and as physicians we all know this to be true without equivocation. Death comes after life..., we all are/all shall become patients at some point, and we all will have our "appointed" time to go to the beyond. Yet while we deal with life, death, and end of life issues on a daily basis as health care providers..., when death hits close to home, we are left grappling with the unacceptable inevitability of the only inevitable thing in life..., and that is death. Still yet, this obvious rationalization does nothing to ease

the wrenching pain when death occurs prematurely and tragically, as it has done with Enyi. As mere mortals, we should all be prepared for this eventual inevitability. For it is God's will... that will be done.

Enyi was indeed an obvious blessing to many. He was a humble person, a quiet soul, a true gentleman. He was an admirable and effective leader of men and women. Shakespeare wrote in Julius Caesar that "...the good that man does is oft interred in his bones..." Not so, I say to you my brothers and sisters. Not so! It is our collective responsibility that the good that this man Enyi Okereke has done, will never be forgotten, and that his Legacy will live and be sustained.

Our prayer is that his soul has found respite and eternal rest in the Grace and the Glory of the Lord. We pray that He pours richest blessings on Moriam, Karim, Kelechi, Kalaya and the rest of his immediate and extended family. We ask that He grant them the peace and the fortitude to sustain through this trying period and forever. We pray and trust that He will continue to keep them in the center of His Will.

Yele Aluko, MD.

Past President, ANPA

On behalf of Yele, Shirley and Kike Aluko

Okereke and Lanval family friend

Charlotte, North Carolina

# R. ENYI OKEREKE, MD - TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF THE ORTHOPAEDIC FACULTY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Dr. Okereke was a beloved and respected member of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania. Fifteen years ago, Dr. Okereke joined the faculty as the first orthopaedic surgery faculty member of African or African American descent.

Dr. Okereke excelled clinically, academically and obviously as an educator as articulated so well by Dr. Neil Sheth, one of the many Orthopaedic Surgery residents. Dr. Okereke insisted on personally reviewing resident applications in order to insure that well qualified applicants of underrepresented groups were given an opportunity to participate in the interview process. Dr. Okereke was effective with a combination of humility and persistence in helping the leadership at Penn understand the importance of increasing diversity of the Orthopaedic Surgery faculty and residents at Penn. Prior to Dr. Okereke's residency, Penn had only had four residents of African American decent in its 100 year history and never more than 1 at any given time. Currently, Penn has three residents and two faculty members of African or African American decent.

Dr. Okereke served as Chief of the Foot and Ankle Service at the University of Pennsylvania. He was recognized for the outstanding clinical care he delivered to his patients locally, regionally and nationally. He was named a "Top Doc" in America and a "Top Doc" by "Philadelphia Magazine" on more than one occasion. He was a humanitarian and a leader in global health care as a member of ANPA (the American Nigerians Physicians Association) giving generously of his time and talents to improve health care in his native Nigeria. He was a leader academically with many peer review publications, book chapters and presentations at National and International Orthopaedic and Foot and Ankle Conferences. His academic accomplishments lead to his promotion to Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery. He was a leader locally as a Board Member of the Philadelphia Orthopaedic Society holding several positions including Program Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. He was a leader nationally, serving on the Board of Directors of the J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society, the premier National Multicultural Orthopaedic Society which focused on increasing diversity, cultural competence and addressing musculoskeletal health disparities for underserved patients.

With all of Dr. Okereke's humanitarian efforts, professional activities and accomplishments, it is difficult to imagine how he found time to excel in the area in which he treasured most, his family life. Dr. Okereke was an example for both younger faculty and residents on successfully balancing the challenges of academic medicine with a fulfilling family life. Having had the fortune of spending time with Dr. Okereke and his family, it was clear that his family was most important to him. He was always a loving, genuine and generous father, husband, uncle, brother and friend. He set such a high standard as a friend and family man that my wife and I could think of no one better to be "Godfather" of our daughter.

Dr. Okereke was always a man of principle. He was never afraid to support what he felt was right whether it was the popular point of view or not. He had an innate ability to understand when it was appropriate to confront issues with humility and diplomacy or when to take issues on directly, forcefully yet respectfully. In addition, his efforts were well directed. He understood the "big picture", where his efforts would have the greatest impact. At the time of his death, he was in Nigeria, attempting to study and obtain funding to improve the infrastructure in Nigeria to provide 21st century care to Nigerian's injured during motor vehicle accidents, one of the leading causes of preventable morbidity and mortality in Nigeria.

He was genuinely grateful and respectful of older individuals and past generations who worked so hard to fight for the freedoms we enjoy today. While Dr. Okereke will be missed greatly by all of us, we will be forever grateful for his generosity, his wisdom, and most importantly his devotion to his family and friends.

May God bless Dr. Enyi Okereke, Moriam Okereke, Kalaya, Kelechi, Karim and the entire Okereke family.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles L. Nelson, MD

Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

University of Pennsylvania



## ULOGY FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN - DR. ENYI OKEREKE

It is unfortunate that the awful dreaded word "death" has untimely snatched away from us the life of a beloved friend, son, brother, nephew, cousin, neighbor, uncle, doctor, teacher, volunteer, husband, and father. He was so many things to so many people.

Enyi and I as young men shared common values and a desire to grow up as successful citizens. We had a common dream as young teenagers. It was as if we knew at that time that we would grow up someday to study abroad, though in different career fields. After graduation from High School, Enyi left for the United States and some years later, I followed him in pursuit of this elusive journey filled with expectation and adventure. You see I followed Enyi's footsteps to America because of his quiet leadership though we were close to the same age bracket. He was indeed a role model as a teenager for me, Maclean, and Lilly as we were growing up. His quiet moral compass and leadership helped to steer me and my siblings in the right direction in life. Indeed, Enyi and I are so close that we were as brothers as we were growing up in the eyes of our family and the community that we lived in at the time.

Socially at that time in Bonny, from 1967 up until the time Enyi left for the United States, we were part of a small social group that consisted of Guy Finecountry, Harrington Pepple, Dawari LongJohn and many other young men at that time while we were in high school. The interactions in school and outside of school with these friends helped to mold and shape and create a sense of community within this small island we call Bonny. Indeed the contributions of these close friends to Enyi and myself shaped our social structure that followed us one by one to this land we call America. This social network that we developed in our teenage years aided us, as we went in different directions to different Universities and careers and different cities in the United States, but we have always been in touch with each other sharing the challenges of young African men to succeed in the new culture we found in America. This journey among friends and family continued after graduation and extended to our own families and children. Enyi especially was the glue with the appropriate touch of empathy that holds together all the sons and daughters of Bonny in a new culture we call America. He was always there for each and every one of us in good and bad times to encourage and impact us regardless of what the situation might be with our families. Enyi was even worried and took our individual problems as if they were his own and was there for us to coach us through gently, to help us make the right decisions in different aspects of ours lives.

It is with a heavy heart, pain and sorrow to say goodbye to Dr. Enyi Okereke as a brother, and a friend at this young age. It is quite a heavy loss to both communities of Nigeria and America because he has indeed

touched so many lives, young and old during his young life. Enyi's life and memories will forever be etched in our memories and our children's memories forever. So we say goodbye and may your soul rest in peace with our Almighty God.

By Abinye Eugene Dan-Jumbo and the Dan-Jumbo Family



## RIBUTE TO ARCHON ENYI OKEREKE FROM THE AR-CHONS OF DELTA EPSILON BOULÉ

Dear Moriam, Kelechi, Kalaya, Karim, and the Okereke Family,

The Archons of Delta Epsilon Boulé were extremely saddened by the unexpected sudden death of our beloved colleague, friend and brother, Enyi . Enyi was a dedicated, God-fearing husband and father, who loved the Lord. He passed into eternity doing the Lord's work by helping to improve the medical care in his beloved country, Nigeria. He was sharing his God given talents with those who were not as fortunate as he.

Enyi was a consummate physician, academician, and researcher who was respected by his peers, students and patients for the knowledge and expertise that he commanded. For over 20 years he dedicated his life of service to the University of Pennsylvania and to his patients. Enyi achieved the rank of Associate Professor of Orthopedics in the Department of Orthopedics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He was the Chief of the Foot and Ankle Service at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital as well as the Presbyterian Hospital. Enyi was well liked by his colleagues and loved by his patients for the superb care that he provided to them. For a man of his stature, he was the most unassuming gentle man, friend, and brother that we have had the privilege of knowing.

This year Enyi took time out from his prestigious position at the University of Pennsylvania to give more of his time to share his expertise with the physicians of Nigeria in order to advance the quality of care to his fellow countrymen. The Archons of Delta Epsilon give thanks for the life of our beloved brother, Enyi. Archon Okereke lived a life that we can and should emulate —giving sacrificially to help his countrymen improve their healthcare and serving other social needs.

Indeed, Enyi died while engaging in giving back in active thankfulness for the blessings that God had bestowed upon him. Let us all be inspired by his actions so that we like him might serve God and mankind through the use of our God -given talents for the betterment of the less fortunate. There is no better way to give thanks for the privilege of having known and loved Enyi, and for the fruits of his tireless and sacrificial labor.

Archon Enyi Okereke was the kind of human Jesus described when he said,

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25: 35-40

So, as we remember our beloved Enyi, let us recall and take comfort in the promise of scripture regarding those who have been faithful to the end in carrying out Jesus' command to, "Love one another":

"Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring With Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words."

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

With Deepest Sympathy,

W. Carey Tucker Fred Foard, Sire Archon

Immediate Past Sire Archon



Around me the images of thirty years..

Think where man's glory most begins and ends,

And say my glory was I had such friends.

Yeats, Last Poems

Moriam, you were his Glory and he will always be your Glory

Kelechi and Kalaya were his Glory and you will be their Glory

Enyi, my Friend and my inspiration for what he lived by:

Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can.

John Wesley

Bernadette Eichleberger



I am saddened by the loss of our good friend and staunch member, Enyi.

While recovering on my Rehab bed, my prayers go to the family. My family joins me in praying that God receives the soul of our fallen comrade. May his spirit rest in the bossom of our Lord, and may his wife, children and family be consoled.

God knows our path. May he continue to direct it.

Christian Ezekwueche, Ugochinyelu.





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## ANPA

ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN PHYSICIANS IN THE AMERICAS

# RIBUTE TO ENYI OKEREKE MD

The news about Enyi Okereke's death came as a sudden blow. I was sitting down in my office on a beautiful Monday morning in southern California finishing my notes on a patient I just finished evaluating when the phone call came. My Medical assistance transferred the call to my office announcing a call from Dr. Scot Emuakpor.

I thought it was another routine call from Prof. calling to give an update on our 2009 Abuja Convention. That was not to be. It was going to be a call like no other one. Prof. came on sad and said "Julius I have terrible news from Nigeria for you." It was terrible news indeed. He announced that Enyi who was attending an arthroscopic seminar in Enugu had a heart attack and died that morning. My heart sank and I told Prof. you got to be kidding. Prof. was emphatic in telling me no, he was not kidding. Prof. apologized for the bad news and then came a dead silence. Prof. broke the silence by apologizing over and over again.

I got to know Enyi well during the ANPA New Jersey convention of June 2005. Enyi was the chairman of the New Jersey chapter and Presided over a very successful convention. That was an election year. Enyi was going to challenge me for the position of President elect. I thought he was bold to challenge a sitting treasurer who was well known and I believed liked by the rank and file of the Association (ANPA). He came with some good credentials. First and foremost was his dedication and love for the organization. Secondly he had single-handedly introduced us to the Nigerian financial market, having raised thousands of dollars for ANPA. I actually admired the guy. I was happy that we have such individuals in the organization. That means that the future bodes well for ANPA. I prevailed in that election, but that did not diminish his interest in ANPA. He shook my hand and it then became business as usual. That is the kind of guy Enyi was. He subsequently contested for the position of treasurer 2 years after, a position he held until that early Monday

#### morning.

When the issue of ANPA moving its convention to Abuja for the 1<sup>st</sup> time came up, he was not only one of those who supported the idea, but was not going to support a dilution of the convention. He spoke out eloquently for the concept. He has worked tirelessly to negotiate with the hotel, making arrangements for the ANPA soon to be ANPA Secretariat in Abuja, interact with financial institutions in Nigeria to raise the necessary funds needed to make the convention a success. He understood the importance of the convention, to raise awareness of the substandard healthcare in Nigeria and to dialogue with the policy makers on how to improve the delivery of health care in a country he loved and cared so much about. He attended several medical missions in various parts of Nigeria. He had one planned for the state of Maiduguri that will no longer hold with Enyi. In fact it was on one of these selfless services to our nation, in Enugu awaiting the seminar on arthroscopic surgery that death cruelly snatched him away from us. The inadequate healthcare in Nigeria did not serve him well. He was first carried down to the lobby of the hotel that he was staying at when the heart attack struck. A taxi was flagged down to carry him to the nearest hospital. There are no emergency response systems in Enugu, no ambulances, no paramedics to administer the crucial first aid to a heart attack victim. There was no emergency room to act as 2<sup>nd</sup> response. No clot busters' in the hospital. No cardiac catheterization lab for crucial diagnoses.

Our friend was aware of these inadequacies.

Take heart warrior, and friend. We will continue the fight. The Abuja convention will go on. Your death will not be in vain. We will persevere so that one day and hopefully sooner than later Nigeria will join the club of developed nations with ever improving but adequate healthcare delivery system that strive to serve its citizenry well.

So long Enyi my good friend. We will not let you down.

Julius Kpaduwa MD

President of ANPA.



When I think of my uncle Enyi as I write this, I have a broad smile on my face. I don't think of him in the past, I think of him in the present, because I know he still lives on and we will definitely meet again. I have so many memories of my uncle Enyi. . . I remember my phone ringing and I hastily pick up my telephone because I know it is my uncle Enyi from the caller ID, and I hear him say "Hey Bella" in that quiet way and I laugh happily to hear from him and gladly rearrange my plans for the day so I can spend time with my uncle Enyi.

Instead of missing my uncle Enyi, I will celebrate him by remembering all his special attributes, his quiet laughter, his warm smile, his subtle humour just to mention a few. I will remember my uncle Enyi when I am close to losing my temper, or getting impatient or irritated with people, I will choose to stay calm just like my uncle Enyi.

Instead of reacting to certain annoying situations that life presents, I am going to take time to think before speaking just like my uncle Enyi. I am going to put my family first just like my uncle Enyi. I am going to stay focused on my plans and goals just like my uncle Enyi.

When I feel the need to be assertive, I am going to speak gently but firmly just like my uncle Enyi. I am going to always remember my uncle Enyi with a smile on my face and joy in my heart. I pray to impact the lives of so many people just like my uncle Enyi.

MY UNCLE ENYI! I LOVE YOU, WHICH I AM SURE YOU KNOW

Till we meet again at heaven's gate.

Peace of Allah

Annabelle

#### Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hughe

1220 Essex Avenue Woodlyn, Pa. 19094 Phone 610 833 3050

December 1, 2008

Dear Mrs. Okereke and family,

I am certain that you will receive many letters of condolence from many people but I could not let this moment pass without telling you that your husband and father was one of the most wonderful men I have ever had the privilege to meet in my life.

My husband is a severe diabetic and as a result of his disease and poor prior medical care had several amputations to his feet. We were referred to Dr. Okereke through a friend of his, Dr. Matthew Ramsey. From that point on my husband never again had to suffer through amputation procedures. His treatment was long and involved and I am certain it would have been much easier for Dr. to just have amputated his diseased foot but instead he fought with such a passion to avoid that situation and through his zeal, my husband was healed.

He was always warm and dealt with our every crisis with such compassion that it became difficult to view him as a physician and not a dear friend. When it became nearly unbearable for me to deal with all of the ramifications of this horrendous disease, he spoke with me in such a tone that when we left my spirit had been elevated and we were able to meet the next incident with our heads high.

Please know that the loss to his profession is monumental and no other individual will ever come up to the standards that Dr. upheld. I believe that I am not alone with this thought.

He was a wonderful, warm human being and know in your heart that he touched more lives than you will ever know.

I thank you for allowing me to share these thoughts with you. Please forgive my intrusion. You will be in our prayers and I wish you comfort.

Sincerely,

Donna Aughe

Donne aughe



A Tribute to Dr. Onyi Okereke MD on behalf of the Orthopaedic Surgery Clinical Staff at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

There are so many wonderful words that come to mind when we think of Dr. Okereke. He was kind, generous, loyal, dedicated, and respectful, a humanitarian, a leader and the epitome of a great surgeon. Dr. Okereke had a way about him that made people feel special and he treated everyone the same.

The clinical staff at The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Orthopaedic Surgery Department will miss him terribly. We loved him because he was a man of compassion, integrity, patience and professional just to name a few of his many great attributes.

He also supported the staff during difficult times. One example is when Cynthia's parents died, his generosity and kindness helped her tremendously. Cynthia has worked with Dr. Okereke for over 10 years as a Medical Assistant, Tony Searles a Cast Technician/Orthopaedic Physician Assistant worked with him for over 20 years and all

Other clinical staff remembers how he respected and showed compassion to his many patients. He set high standards for patient care and expected his staff and residents to treat his patients with dignity and respect. Dr. Okereke's patients always trusted his judgment and felt that they were in good hands. He exuded confidence was competent and took great pride in his work.

It was a great shock hearing the unfortunate news of Dr. Okereke's passing. He will be sadly missed by so many people especially his colleagues at HUP. It was with great pleasure to know this wonderful man who was very special to us all and we will always remember his candid smile. He was truly a gift to this world and he made the world a better place to live. Our thought and prayers are with the Okereke family.

With deepest sympathy,

Cynthia Hester, Ronda Robinson, Mary Thornton-Bowmer, Tony Searles, Pamela Wilson,

Carol Ann Delvin, Rebecca Fyffe



The news of your sudden passing really confounds me I'm still hoping that somehow I will wake up and be told That it's all been a bad dream. And that the tragic story of the past week is really not true.

Our journey in life started close to each other's in '54. As mother told me, yours was on a Monday, April 26th. Mine started two days after, Wednesday the 28th. We grew through primary school at Township School in P.H. Secondary at Bonny National Grammar School We left home for post secondary education and ended up in the U.S.

Fate somehow found a way to keep us close to each other. You in New Jersey, and I next door in New York We settled to raise our families and had our share of fun times together

We would drive to meet halfway at a Rest stop so that the children can go with one of us to spend a weekend or a holiday with their cousins. We celebrated birthdays, accomplishments and other milestones. Just like us we have watched the children grow up together as cousins.

Your departure leaves a huge void which I doubt will easily be filled. Because it would require somebody with your unique attributes you are always there to give of yourself to others even till the end on a Medical Mission. How ironic that you, who cared so much about others could not get appropriate care just when you needed it.

Though you are no longer here I will always cherish memories of the fun times we shared more than a cousin, you were indeed a friend. I'll miss you brotherhood and your friendship. May your soul rest in perfect harmony.

Adios, my cousin Enyi

Dawari



Dr. Enyi Okereke 26 April 1954 – 25 November 2008

#### ADIEU TO ONE OF OUR OWN AT FBN Africa

Death has claimed a dear friend, Dr. Enyi Okereke, who passed on in Enugu, Nigeria, on Monday 24 November 2008.

Enyi was classmates with Dr. Aaron Nmungwun, Founder and CEO, and Engr. Waribo Adasi, Founding Partner & COO of Foisi Broadcasting Network (FBN Africa) at Baptist High School (BHS), Port Harcourt graduating class of 1971. Class Five was divided into two sections, Five A (which both Enyi and Aaron belonged, with Aaron as the Class Prefect) and Five B with Waribo as the Class Prefect. Enyi was an exceptional student as he was amongst the few students from BHS to receive Aggregate 6 from WAEC during his time.

As quiet as Enyi was, he had his fair share of insubordination at school. There was one that he could never forget for his entire life. At BHS, we had strict dinning rules. Every student was supposed to gather in the Dining Hall for breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. We were not to touch our food until the hall was quiet, prayer said and an order to eat given. If you touched your food a minute before its time, you were considered to be "stealing" your food and severe punishment was meted out. Our friend, Enyi would commit a crime far worse than stealing his food. Enyi and another classmate, Alaso, decided to bribe their way into the Dining Hall to eat before it was time. These two sat comfortably, ate "garri" and soup with their bare hands (which was a crime in itself and one that carried a severe punishment). As they finished their dishes and attempted to exit the Dining Hall looking for water to wash their hands, they were accosted by none other than our Principal, Chief (Reverend) Bro Tim Jack (of blessed memory) at the door! As punishment for their crime, the Principal made both students stand in his office with their "souped-up" hands raised for most of the afternoon when their classmates were in class studying. Enyi later confided that the most embarrassing moments were when parents and other visitors would arrive at the Principal's office, staring at him. God did answer an important prayer of that day as none of his family members or friends visited.

Enyi, Waribo and Aaron soon found themselves in the United States where Enyi became a well renowned Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon specializing in Foot and Ankle Surgery-Trauma.

When Enyi heard about Foisi Broadcasting Network, Inc. (FBN Africa), a Pan African Broadcast Conglomerate that will broadcast commercial Radio, Television and Internet signals in and out of all 53 African nations and across the globe, he did not think twice before asking to be a part of it. He was very comfortable as this historic company was pioneered by three individuals whom he had known for a long time. The FBN Africa

Principals: Dr. Aaron Nmungwun, Engr. Waribo Adasi and Mrs. Halima Adasi accepted him unanimously as a shareholder. Enyi's association with us in FBN Africa went further as he took it upon himself to assist in raising needed equity funding for the young company. For his effort, he was honored with a seat on the Board of Directors of Foisi Broadcasting Network Nigeria Limited. He believed in our company the same way we all do. In fact, our last conversation ended with Enyi in his ever so jovial way saying that he needed to retire from his medical practice so that he could devote more time to working fulltime for FBN Africa.

Enyi---Aaron, Waribo & Halima make this pledge today that we will make you proud by building the largest and most successful Broadcast Network in Africa. Enyi who lived and worked in the United States was on a routine medical mission to Nigeria when he suddenly passed away. His death could have been prevented. FBN Africa will not rest until Nigeria becomes a country where everyone has access to the finest medical facilities and "medical malpractices" are not condoned. It will not be business as usual, we promise!

We will miss you terribly and so will all FBN Africa's Board Members, Technical Partners, Consultants and the entire Management Team and staff.

Go in peace, our dear friend!

Dr. Aaron F. Nmungwun, Founder & CEO, Foisi Broadcasting Network Engr. Waribo Nick Adasi-Efuya, Founding Partner & COO, Foisi Broadcasting Network Mrs. Halima Adasi, Founding Partner and EVP for Administration, Foisi Broadcasting Network

On Behalf of The Entire Team at FBN Africa

## EMINISCENCES OF OUR FRIEND ENYI OKEREKE

It was November 25, 2008, about 5pm, Pacific time, when the call came from Moriam, "Enyi is dead."

I was overcome with uncontrollable grief. The suddenness of this loss was overwhelming, the magnitude incomprehensible. Just two days earlier, Moriam had called with the ominous news that Enyi had suffered a severe heart attack and was in intensive care two hours from Lagos, too unstable to transfer. He had been doing voluntary work.

Moriam, a great believer in the power of prayer and connection, asked us to email our contacts in USANA for their prayers. Unfortunately, this was not enough to rescue him. By the time Moriam arrived in Nigeria from New Jersey, Enyi was gone.

Enyi was a great person – a great human being and friend. He gave so much of himself to everybody around him: his family, friends, patients, community, and country. He had so much more to live for and to contribute. The loss is beyond any comprehension – the world is so much less without him.

I first got to know Enyi when I came to New York as the new Chief of Foot and Ankle at the Hospital for Joint Diseases in 1999. Mel Jahss, the great pioneer of orthopaedic foot and ankle surgery and founding editor of the journal Foot & Ankle International, asked me to contact his former students and fellows and assist them in completing any unfinished projects. Enyi had trained under Jahss, and Jahss had spoken very complimentary about him as being reliable, thoughtful, and solid. Enyi welcomed my call warmly, at the end of a long and busy day. Since then, we frequently met at meetings of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society, sharing experiences about HJD, New York, orthopaedic training, and life in general.

However, it wasn't until USANA that I truly got to know Enyi on a more personal level. I had known that Enyi had a Pharm.D. in addition to his extensive medical and orthopaedic training and expertise, so I called him. It was just a few months after I had started in USANA, and I had already approached and presented to numerous people with little success. When I invited Enyi to hear about USANA, he seemed interested and thought that his wife Moriam, also a Pharm.D., also would want to hear about it.

My wife Kyle and I spoke with Moriam and Enyi, and Moriam immediately wanted to do Reset and try the joint supplements. Within 1-2 weeks later, she joined us as an Associate to help other people with these pharmaceutical-grade nutritional programs. She had great benefits from the products with her knee pains. She quickly became an active and successful Associate.

However, most gratifying to us was the wonderful personal relationship that Kyle and I developed with Moriam and Enyi. We have had the opportunity to visit with them on numerous occasions, visiting them in their lovely home in Voorhees, New Jersey, meeting their beautiful children Kelechi and Kalaya, and of course getting together for dinners and other fun occasions at orthopaedic and USANA meetings.

Soon after Moriam started in USANA, Kyle and I met with Enyi in Seattle at the AOFAS summer meeting, and shared a lovely lunch with him. Our first impression at that time was his tremendous personal warmth and humble charisma, his friendly smile, his wry and quick humor, crisp and clear unedited observations about people, and his joie de vivre. As always, he was well dressed – neat and sharp, formal but not showy, with a suit and tie, and shoes well shined. He was a handsome man, and he radiated a personal warmth that was magnetic. His comments showed that he had a deep understanding of people and human nature, both the inspiring and the dark sides. He was highly curious about people and human endeavors, and was studying yoga philosophy as an outside interest. He was genuinely curious about Kyle's work in comparative religion and Feldenkrais movement education.

During our meetings with Enyi, I became impressed with his remarkable sensitivity and understanding about people. He greatly appreciated his training from Jahss, and revered the archetypal teacher, recognizing too that the teacher Jahss had a personal side that sometimes was a challenge for some of his fellows, yet enriching in life experience.

Enyi was deeply committed to his home country Nigeria, traveling back home frequently to visit family and do volunteer work, to serve others less fortunate. Enyi was well aware of the challenges of travel to Nigeria, and would relate experiences of searches at the airport or by individuals who wanted to confiscate medical equipment that he had so carefully accumulated to donate to needy, outlying facilities. He used to describe these experiences with the realism and sadness of somebody who cared deeply about his country, yet with a humorous chuckle about the realities of the dark side of human nature.

Enyi was a great friend – one of the best - with whom was genuine mutual trust, respect, and enjoyment. He always made me feel valued, and I know he had the wonderful quality of doing this for everybody who came into contact with him.

Although some of my other orthopaedic colleagues would be a source of competitive ridicule because of my change in career focus from surgery to nutrition and health maintenance, Enyi was curious of new ideas and accepting of my drive to take a road less well traveled. He did not judge me, but rather, embraced and respected me for being an individual and going against the grain. He was so intelligent, humble, dignified,

classy, and generous. His combination of these qualities is unique and rare, and I will miss this.

I remember the first time Kyle and I visited Moriam and Enyi at their home. Enyi was extremely hard-working, and he typically returned home from work at about 10 p.m. Yet, he always seemed to be in good spirits – always smiling or laughing. Eating his dinner, sitting by the island in his kitchen, his tie loosened, sipping on a soda, he would share the day's challenges with a humorous and joyous spin, with gratitude for being part of the human experiment.

One evening, we had dinner in the dining room with his friend, colleague, and neighbor Charles Nelson visiting from down the street. Enyi was most concerned that his guests all had food that they liked and that they had enough to eat. He sat at the head of the table – a king of a man, so hospitable and full of joy.

Enyi's humility was reflected in his actions, participating even in the mundane. On a Saturday morning, I found him helping Moriam with the housecleaning, doing the vacuuming and dusting himself. (He is perhaps the only orthopaedic surgeon I know, other than myself, who helped with the housecleaning.) He allowed me to join him, initially reluctantly because I was a guest, but then amicably when he recognized that I wanted to help. So, we had fun doing the housework together.

In Nigeria it is customary, when addressing somebody your elder, to refer to him as "Sir." Upon learning this, I began to greet Enyi as "Sir" because he was a few months my elder. This would make him laugh, perhaps because he may have appreciated my respect for his tradition and also because of the humor, as he regarded me as an equal.

I remember one special, brief meeting with Enyi at the most recent American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons conference this past March. There was almost nobody at the poster exhibits at the time, and we bumped into each other. Enyi was quietly and studiously reviewing the clinical posters, pursuing his genuine interest and curiosity, seeking some new points that could help him in helping his patients. I remember how we spoke briefly. We discussed orthopaedics, politics, USANA, Moriam, the family, and his planned work in Nigeria. As we parted, we embraced each other, and I said to him, "I love you, man. Take care." It's good that I said what I felt; who could have known that it would be one of my last opportunities to do so?

He lived his life with gratitude and generosity. I remember how grateful he was when I came to the meeting of the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas (ANPA) in North Carolina this past June to help Moriam with her USANA booth. He generously registered me for the meeting so that I could participate in the luncheon meetings, where his dynamic sister Dr. Mrs. Ndi Okereke-Onyiuke ("D.G.") gave a presentation,

speaking with confidence about the emerging Nigerian stock market. I was so proud to learn that Enyi was elected Treasurer of ANPA, in recognition of his trustworthiness in leadership.

Why did he die so young? Enyi must have had considerable stress at work because of the long hours, the nature of the work, and his commitment to excellence. We used to commiserate and share experiences about the lack of departmental support we both felt, at times, as foot and ankle surgeons in academic practice. He seemed to be in great health, running and exercising as much as possible. Despite his initial reluctance to take the USANA supplements, Moriam told me that he eventually began to take them regularly and found that the fish oil helped decrease his cholesterol level. So, he transformed from having to be reminded by Moriam to take his supplements, and instead, he demanded them when they were not in front of him.

However, his fate reminds us that we can try to put all our cards in our favor, as we should, but in the end, there are no guarantees that we will stay healthy. We must take joy from every day, because each day is a precious gift.

Enyi was on a road less well traveled, away from his family and friends, when he died, much too early in life. He was four months into a sabbatical, doing outreach work in Nigeria, following his passion to use his skills and training to help people in need.

Enyi Okereke touched many lives, and would have touched thousands more if his life wasn't cut down as it was, in his prime. He is greatly missed by all of us who had the privilege of being touched by his worldliness, friendship, good humor, and keen intelligence.

Moriam and family, we grieve with you. Please know that we love you and share in the depth of this loss.

Enyi, "shalom chaver" (as we say in Hebrew) – good-bye and peace, my friend.

Elly Trepman

# EMINISCENCES OF OUR FRIEND ENYI OKEREKE

My first memory of Enyi was about five years ago in a sun-filled room at brunch in a Seattle hotel restaurant. I had already met him, along with Moriam, but only over the phone, as Moriam had recently joined us as a new partner in our work together, teaching and supporting others in their quest for health and prosperity. I remember the conversation turning to yoga, not just the movement exercise, but yoga as one of the six main branches of Indian philosophy. Enyi described his own fascination with yoga, with the study of Eastern thought, its connection to body, mind, and spirit. He described the love and admiration he had for his yoga teacher, the peace and wisdom of this man. As I listened, I realized what a remarkably rare man sat across from me, one who was both a scientist of the mind, a physician, and a seeker of wisdom, a man of heart and soul. I was dazzled by his humor and charm, so delighted to meet this friend and colleague of my husband, someone he so truly admired and cherished. We talked of yoga philosophy and I spontaneously gave him a book I happened to have with me, a copy of the ancient text, the Yoga Sutras. He was delighted and grinned from ear to ear. All I could think of was, "I can't wait to get to know these people better."

I am so grateful that over the last few years I had an opportunity to get to know Enyi a little better each time we met. I remember a wonderful dinner in Boston, just the four of us celebrating late into the evening, filled with laughter and the celebration of "la dolcé vita". I think we may have been celebrating Enyi's birthday, as I recall. When we visited the family in New Jersey, I remember talking with Enyi about his wonderful art collection, his favorite wines--sharing the joys of good wine, good food, talking with him about his interests in other cultures, in philosophy and religion. I remember telling him how I love to drum and how marvelous it would be to travel to Nigeria and bring home a drum. I joked about being a tall, lanky white girl playing a big African drum and he howled with laughter at the thought.

I will remember him as a man of large heart and spirit, whose home was always open to others, whose hospitality was ever gracious, easy, and flowed spontaneously. I noticed that, it seemed, no matter what time of day it was, even after having a long day himself, he was always, always, deeply curious, genuinely interested in everything he could learn from even a casual chat with me. He had a way of always making the other person feel seen and valued. That is a rare gift, indeed. It was so obvious how much this man loved and cared for his family. He was a man of service and devotion, one who laughed, and loved, and lived in a way that all of us admired—a shining star, dimmed too soon. He always left me wanting to know him better. Talking with Enyi always left me simply wanting to spend more time with him and Moriam. I looked forward to building a lifetime of memories with these extraordinary people. We will miss him very much and we will remember the laughter and the warmth of this remarkable, kind, and generous man of spirit and hope. He lived a life worth emulating. He lived life with purpose, meaning, discipline, and an extraordinary love for others. He will live on forever as an inspiration to us all. --Kyle Lee Williams



The Dance

Looking back on the memory of

The dance we shared beneath the stars above

For a moment all the world was right

How could I have known that you'd ever say goodbye

And now, I'm glad I don't know

The way it all would end, the way it all would go

Our lives are better left to chance

I could have missed the pain

But I'd have had to miss the dance

Thank you, Enyi, for the dance, when you became my friend, gave me strength and wisdom.

But most of all, you were the best boss anyone could ever hope to have.

You will live forever in my heart and I know one day I will see you again.

Love, Tricia





### PPRECIATION

N BEHALF OF THE FAMILY OF DR. ENYI OKEREKE, THE ENTIRE OKEREKE FAMILY OF NGO-OKPALA, THE ENTIRE LONGJOHN FAMILY OF GRAND BONNY KINGDOM AND ALL OUR EXTENDED FAMILIES.



E THE LANVAL FAMILY THANK ALL ENYI'S FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES, OUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES FOR THE LOVE, CARE AND TIME SPARED IN OUR PERIOD OF GRIEF.

AY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.