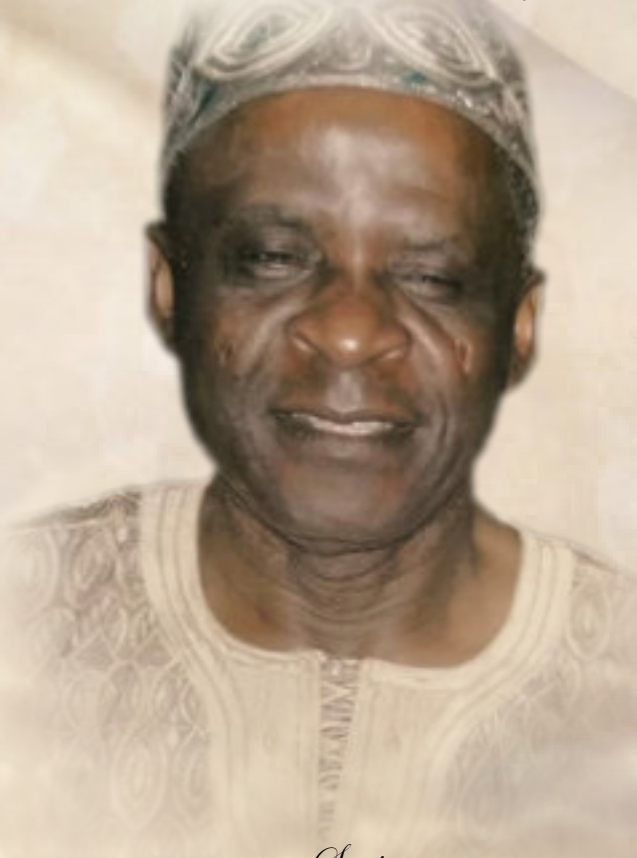


IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Dr. Joseph Chukwudi Udeze

Sunrise
October 23, 1946

Sunset
January 4, 2022



Service
Saturday, February 5, 2022 • 11:00 a.m.

St. Francis of Assisi – St. Blaise Parish
1081 Nostrand Avenue • Brooklyn, New York 11225

Obituary

Dr. Joe Chukwudi Udeze was born in Aba, Eastern Nigeria on October 23, 1946, to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony and Beatrice Udeze Iloagbaonwu of Umuoma, Utuh village in Nnewi South LGA, Anambra State. He was the fourth of seven children.

Affectionately called Obi-Adi'we (one who never harbors a grudge or gets angry) by his mother, Joe lived his life by that title. He was a handsome man with a heart of gold. His quiet, yet powerfully positive presence was a gift to anyone he came across. He never met a stranger.

His parents vowed to make sure that their children would be educated, and Joe took that commitment to heart. A devout Catholic, he began his educational journey at Christ the King School and then went on Sacred Heart College; both in Aba. Upon graduation, he worked in the insurance industry as an agent for Royal Exchange Assurance.

In the late 60s, Joe was recruited in the military during the Nigerian civil war. He served as a Signal Officer attached to the Second Division of the Nigerian army based at Nnewi.

1971 proved to be a life changing year for Joe. He left Nigeria at the invitation of his senior brother, Clement, who secured admission for him and his junior brother Donatus to attend university in the United States. With a focus on maximizing his education, Joe graduated in 1974 with a degree in Biology from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He went on to pursue graduate education in Endocrinology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. His passion for the sciences grew and he was admitted to St. George's University, School of Medicine in Grenada, on a scholarship from the Nigerian Federal Government. Joe graduated as a medical doctor in 1987. He went on to specialize in Infectious Disease at Cabrini and Beekman Downtown Hospitals in New York.

During his medical training, Joe spent a considerable amount of time in New York. It was there, at 1459 Carrol St, that he met his "Beloved", Norma Grant. They shared many years of life, love, family and community in Brooklyn, New York.

"Dr. Joe", as he was fondly called by his friends and neighbors, was a welcoming presence in the neighborhood. He would often be found happily chatting with everyone about current events, the latest sporting event or what happened at school that day. He was part of the fabric of his community. When he fell ill, his neighbors were right by his side.

Joe loved life. His generosity knew no bounds. Whatever he had, he shared with others. He adored his entire family and had a soft spot for his sisters, Christiana, Carol and Louisa. He was a faithful Catholic, attending St. Francis of Assisi-St. Blaise Catholic Church for many decades. He was fond of cooking and his recipes strongly reflected the Nigerian cuisine he grew up with. His eyes would light up and his spirit soared whenever good music was playing. At one point, during the Nigerian Civil war, he helped facilitate the musical entertainment of the soldiers. Joe also loved sports. He immensely enjoyed playing tennis; and played with his brothers often as they grew up together, and later with his friends and colleagues. He was an avid soccer fan and player. He played for Enyimba Soccer club of Aba and for Jeno Paulucci's soccer club in Duluth, MN.

An active and founding member of Utuh, USA Incorporated, Joe never forgot home. He understood the importance of community and giving back to others.

On January 4, 2022, Dr. Joseph Chukwudi Udeze made his final journey. He spent his last days being loved and cared for by his family.

Rest well, Obi-Adi'we. Your heart was like no other. Well done.

Dr. Joe from the perspective of his Rutland Road Home

Dr Joe was a quiet and very well liked member of the Rutland One block. He was always very congenial, having pleasant conversations with adults and children alike. The children would always greet him, talk with him, share their activities with him and have general conversation with him. The children missed him during his illness and frequently asked how he was doing. One little boy even made and left a "Get Well" poster for him.

Dr. Joe liked to cook and his menu strongly reflected his Nigerian culture. During his final days he would inquire longingly for his home health aide, Danielle Augustin, who worked devotedly for him for four years. Special thanks to his neighbors, especially Michelle Cesar who provided medical and compassionate expertise during his declining years. Thanks to our neighbor George Javana who was always available to help in critical situations.

Dr. Joe was a pleasant and joyful neighborhood presence who will be greatly missed. We shall not see his like again.

Order of Service

Celebrant.....Monsignor Paul W. Jervis

Placing of the Pall Ifeyinwa Udeze, Ikemefuna Udeze, Chisom Okoye, Mahol Grant

Opening Hymn..... “How Great Thou Art” - Pierre Romain

Placing of Christian Symbols..... Norma Grant, Ifeyinwa Udeze

Pall BearersIkemefuna Udeze, Chisom Okoye, Mahol Grant

First Reading - Isaiah 25:6-9..... Rev Narcisse Phillips

Responsorial Psalm “Shepherd Me O God” - Pierre Romain

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 24-28..... Ifeyinwa Udeze

GospelMonsignor Paul W Jervis

General Intercessions

Presentation of the gifts Michelle Cesar, Florence Cesar

Offertory Hymn..... “On Eagles Wings” - Pierre Romain

Communion Hymn..... “I am the Bread of Life” - Pierre Romain

Communion Meditation hymn “Ave Maria” - Pierre Romain

Eulogy Ikemefuna Udeze

Final Commendation Hymn..... “Saints of God” - Pierre Romain

Recessional Hymn “Sing the Wondrous Love of Jesus” - Pierre Romain

Interment

Udeze Family Compound
Nnewi Anambra State, Nigeria

*We saw your pain through the years
Our hearts were crushed and sore
You did your best to hide it
Till you could cope no more*

*In tears we watched you sinking
We watched you fade away
And though our hearts were breaking
We knew you could not stay*

*You left some aching hearts
That loved you most sincere
We never shall forget you
And will hold your memory dear*

*The Lord will reward you with peace
For He is kind merciful.*

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Fairhaven Memorial Chapel, St. Francis of Assisi-St. Blaise Parish, Rev. Narcisse Phillips, Pierre, all those who participated in this general mass, and all of you for your expression of love during this difficult time. We thank the neighbors and friends who have travelled from near and far for being here and sharing in the celebration of Dr Joseph's life. May God bless and keep you!

The Udeze, and Grant Families

Final Arrangements Entrusted to:

Fairhaven Memorial Chapel LLC

(T) 718.622.4442 / (F) 917.979.6972

Jason M. Sheppard

Licensed Funeral Director/Owner - New York / Connecticut

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