

# CELEBRATION OF LIFE



THE LATE

*Mr. Kwesi*

**DANSO**

**Sunrise: November 28, 1954 - Sunset: April 29, 2022**

**Saturday, May 14, 2022**

**Viewing 8-10:00am**

**Celebration of Life Service 10am**

**A Better Life Ministry  
129 Linden Avenue, Jersey City NJ 07305**

**Pastor Keith D. Howell, Eulogist**

# *Order of Service*

**Musical Prelude**

**Processional**  
Clergy & Family

**Prayer of Comfort**

**Scripture Readings**  
Old & New Testaments

**Musical Selection**  
Shawanda Grant

**Reflections**  
Please limit all remarks to 2 minutes

**Reading of Acknowledgments, Obituary and Tributes**  
Joseph Wilson

**Musical Selection**  
Shawanda Grant

**Eulogy**  
Pastor Keith D. Howell

**Farewell Glance**

**Ghanaian Funeral Rites**  
Ben Kumadu & Robert Boakye  
Mensa Djondo

**Benediction & Recessional**  
Big Band – “Three Little Birds” by Bob Marley

**Interment**  
Bayview Cemetery  
321 Garfield Avenue, Jersey City, NJ

*Repast will be held immediately after burial  
114 Monticello Avenue, Jersey City NJ*

# *The Obituary*

**Kwesi Adu Asare Danso** was born on November 28, 1954 at Akim Oda in the Eastern region of Ghana. His parents, both deceased, were Opanin Kwabena Adu Asare and Obaapayin Agnes Akosua Ntiriwaa natives of Akim Oda. Kwesi was preceded in death by his siblings, Kofi, Ama (London), and Kwasi (Canada).

Kwesi started his elementary education at Akim Oda before attending the prestigious ODASCO secondary school in Oda. After completing high school in 1972, Kwesi was an elementary school teacher at Abaam, from 1972 -1973. He was later transferred to Kofi Nimo in 1973. In 1974, Kwesi was employed by Ghana Commercial Bank (GCB) Foreign Department, in Accra, Ghana. His desire to travel overseas in pursuit of his educational goals, took him to West Germany, briefly, and later to the USA in 1978.

Kwesi Danso began a life of hard work as a Retail Manager, in where his daily commute would have him cross paths with the love of his life Sharon. Kwesi and Sharon would soon get married and shared an unbreakable bond of love, laughter, and commitment for the next 35 years. Kwesi started his own courier business and worked diligently until his recent health issues.

Kwesi Danso had a vibrant and welcoming personality. He was the heartbeat of any conversation. His deep octave and loud laugh could brighten any atmosphere. He was kindhearted, polite, and well loved by his family, in-laws, and friends. He was a strong patriarch of his family, a good friend to all, a man who would give his shirt for a friend.

Kwesi Danso is survived by his loving wife and life-partner, Sharon Danso; Children, Joseph (Donna) and Nakiya (Elijah), Grandson, Braylen and grand-doggy Khloe. His siblings, Kwame Pepra (Mrs. Faustina Pepera), Ama Tabua, Akua Appeaa, Akua Nfum, Kwadwo Amoa-Apeadu (Miss Joyce Asuming), Yaw Antwi-Peasa (Miss Joyce Karikari). Brother and Sister-In Laws, Diana & Nathan Boney (Jersey City), Elron & Sonya Wilson (North Brunswick). Kwesi Danso also leaves to cherish his memories a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and long-time friends Kwame (Ghana), Justice, Ben, Robert, Mensah, and Paul.

## Farewell Tributes from Family

I met Kwesi years ago when he first moved to NJ. He became my best friend. He showed me culture, planned fun living room picnics, took me to Ghana to introduced me to his parents and family.

We had 40 plus years of joyful experiences, shared the deepest love, happiest marriage, joke after joke; and the truest partnership that I could imagine ... And don't forget our days of dancing and partying. He gave me the experience of being deeply understood, truly supported and completely and utterly loved – and I will carry that with me always. Most importantly, he gave his all in raising the two most amazing children in the world Joseph & Nakiya. Kwesi was my rock. When I got upset, he stayed calm. When I was worried, he said it would be ok. When I wasn't sure what to do, he figured it out. He was completely dedicated to his children and family in every way. Kwesi and I did not get nearly enough time together. But as heartbroken as I am today, I am equally grateful. Even in these last few years of unexpected ups and downs. I know how lucky I have been. I am grateful for every minute we had. As we put the love of my life to rest today, we bury only his body. His spirit, his soul, his amazing ability to give and make everyone laugh is still with us. It lives on in the stories people are sharing of how he touched their lives, in the love that is visible in the eyes of our family and friends, in the spirit and resilience of our children. Things will never be the same – but the world is better for the years my beloved husband lived and we will always remember his abundant smile and loving vibes. Farewell my King Kwesi Danso.

**Wife-Sharon**

“Love leaves a memory no one can steal, but death leaves a pain that only love can heal” It's sad to know that our dad departed this earth just a few weeks ago, but again it is a loving memory for us when we think about the life we shared with Kwesi. Our father has always been a man of integrity and strong principles... The times we shared traveling or having a cookout allowed us the opportunities to laugh, bond, learn, dance and most of all, spend time together. Fond memories will remain with us forever, knowing the impact by my dad had in our lives and the lives of others. All the good things that he taught Nakiya and I .... An intelligent and intellectual man, full of jokes, always stressing the importance of education and hard work in life to become a great person.... Daddy, my heart weeps each time I remember that you are gone, but your loving & caring fatherly role will continue lingering in my humble heart.. I don't know where to begin, all I keep thinking is how I wish I had that “one more” opportunity to see you, to hear your deep voice and to see you broad smile or even crack a joke or two. You were everything to us, you did everything for all. .... You were a brother to your friends and a father to our friends. We love you dad, you were our strength and voice of reason... The legacy you leave behind, is the foundation that has molded us into the adults we are today and keeps us progressing in life... You lived for others, always helping others. I'll do my best to carry on in your footsteps. I am happy that we are your children & I'm so glad you are a grandfather to Braylen. Your memory will not fade...you are a beacon of Hope and Dignity for our family. Thinking about the time spent together does bring a smile to my face and I remember your smile oh so vividly. Dad you are in my heart, and you are here in spirit even as I'm reading this tribute... I will always love you and miss you dad... Continue to Rest in Power! Medaase Papa. **-Joseph & Nakiya**

We all know that death is inevitable but this is something we cannot easily do away with. KD, as we all call him was a God sent, a brother to us all. He loved his siblings and saw his nephews and nieces as his brothers and sisters. You will always see or heard him smiling or laughing with whoever he sees or gets into contact with. You've been a pillar and a big tree in the middle of our garden, with huge branches which gives us shade and shelter. This big tree has been uprooted by the wind of death which no one can challenge. KD, we will never forget you in our hearts and we thank the good Lord for giving you to us. All that we can say is that it is only the Almighty who knows best. KD, we know you've gone to your maker, you will be a big symbol in our hearts. May the Almighty keep you safe till we see each other again. KD, damirifa due, Onyame mfa wo nsie wo Abraham akoko mu. **-Brothers & Sisters**



There will never be another like my beloved Uncle Kwesi. He was one of one. Within the Adu-Asare family he was the unofficial king of hearts and the ace in our pack. Universally loved for his joyful spirit, great sense of humor, wisdom, humility and abundant generosity, he impacted our lives in ways he will never know. He was truly a class act. On a personal level, he was more than my mother's brother. He had a sixth sense for instinctively knowing what I needed him to be at various points in my life. Sometimes he was like a father to me, other times like my brother, my friend, confidante, or partner in crime. The bottom line is he was always there. He had a way of making me feel like a giant and always encouraged me to be the best I could be. I learned so much from simply observing the way he did life. I loved the way he loved Aunt Sharon; I loved the twinkle in his eye whenever he spoke about Nakiya, and I loved the pride in his voice when he opined about the man Joseph had become. Family was everything to him, and this extended from New Jersey right back to his roots in Akim Oda. He was the best of Ghana and the promise of America combined. His outlook was always hopeful, and even with his health in decline, he looked forward to better days ahead. I can still hear his infectious laugh and I'm smiling as I visualize his broad, unrestrained grin. There's no doubt in my mind there's a wild and jubilant party taking place in paradise, and Uncle Kwesi is the life and soul of it. My dear uncle, as much as it hurts to say goodbye, I'm comforted by the knowledge that your memory will forever be a blessing. I'm grateful for the times we shared together and will never forget the way you lit up our lives. Rest in Power. Much love. **-Kwadjo Dajan.**

Uncle, your passing has come as a complete shock and is very devastating to your nephews and nieces. Given your personality it is no wonder we think of you with such fondness. You lit up the room with your infectious laugh and your smile is like no other. It was warm, reassuring, comforting and above all it made us feel loved. You were always available for us, a real encourager, non-judgmental, supporter of our endeavors, you will always be an inspiration. Thank you for being you, we are privileged to call you Uncle Kwesi Danso. You have run the race, fought a good fight and it is now time to rest and find perfect peace. **Anita**

This is one of the most difficult tributes to my dear uncle (a.k.a Quincy!!) I would ever have to write, and to be in this same place again in less than a year...am speechless!! As I write I can still hear that baritone "whazzup" ringing in my ears and the reverberating laughter I became accustomed to each time we called each other on the phone. I am still in shock!! The last time I saw you in November last year, you looked so healthy and vibrant, and were so looking forward to walking Nakiya down the aisle, that nothing could have prepared me for the devastating news of your exit so soon. You were more of a father to me... Your warm, positive, fun-loving, jovial character was admirable, not to mention our wisdom and all the advice you gave me... I learnt a great deal from you. I don't recall ever seeing you angry... you managed to make a joke out of every situation. I have so many very fond memories of the fun times we had together and each one brings a smile to my face. I remember you being my favorite uncle as a child (around 6 years old) when you would pick Anita and I up from school and buy us whatever we asked for.... usually biscuits and chocolates.... we thought you were the best!! I also remember on your last trip, we visited the Arts Centre together to pick up some gifts for the family back home and you attracted such a crowd around us, everyone laughing at one joke or another, anyone would have thought we were at a live show.....personally, I was exhausted, but you just reveled in it. I am truly thankful to have had you in my life. You were a real pillar of strength for us when mum (and your beloved sister) passed away last year. And again, I say "Thank you". You will indeed be sorely missed. You leave a void of emptiness which only God can fill. But I am comforted in knowing that you are resting now...peacefully... Till we meet again, fare thee well Uncle. You will forever be in my heart. Love always, **Audrey xxx**

It is with deepest sorrow and sadness that I write this tribute to you. You were an uncle in a million; my uncle was humble, kind, loving, caring and good at heart and soul!!! I remember how you never failed to encourage me, even when I felt I couldn't. I carry your memory with high regard, like you carried me through life (literally, LOL) My cousins and I, who you've helped nurture, will really miss you and your honest advice. I know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death. They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision

we make. Your love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories, and this is how I know this true. You have left some beautiful memories that will never fade from my heart. You are a success – you have lived well, laughed often, and loved much, who has gained the respect and love, who has filled your niche and accomplished your task. This is the price you pay for having a great uncle. You get the wonder, the joy, the tender moments – and you get the tears at the end, too. Childhood friends and adult friends, alike, have expressed how you were like a neighborhood dad that helped keep them all in line. Now imagine if you had the pleasure of living in the same house. You get a bonus dad... As one of your niece's, we all would like to give our appreciation and gratitude for all the memories, gems and overall impact you have had in our lives. Thank you for helping to mold me... Thank you for the countless life lessons... And most of all, thank you for giving me a lifetime of random moments of laughter when I think back to all of our funny moments. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

**-Nicole Boney**

### **Tributes From Friends**

For 49 years I knew Kwesi: he was always truthful, straightforward, courageous and loyal. There was this unbreakable bond between us that nobody understood. Kwesi never sugar-coated anything to spare my feelings; he was always "brutally" honest with me, and I loved him for that. I have sadly lost my brother.

**Justice Croffie**

Kwasi and I have been childhood friends since the age of five, engaging in various sporting activities including playing soccer, swimming in a local river, pim-pong etc. Kwasi was more than a brother to me. We shared humor, fought back and forth and never got angry with anyone. Amongst all my friends he was the one endowed with the most Patience by his creator. Even when he was struck with his illness he still maintained his sense of humor. The last conversation we had on 04/28/ 22, he said, "Mensah we have had a fair share of our lives and so come what may". Love you my brother till we meet again. **Mensa Djondo.**

Kwesi, you were a special friend and brother to me. You called and spoke to me on Thursday and you left us on Friday. I will miss your kindness, advice, jokes and tenacity. "May the Lord grant you his mercies on this eternal journey that you've embarked on." This is my prayer for you. **Ben Kumadu.**

Kwesi, the loss of you have complicated a lot for me and other Loved ones. It was such a shock and devastating. You have been an Integral Part of me regardless the number of times we spoke or saw each other. We have shared our lives over the years. We shared our Thoughts and Activities together. None like you. I will miss you greatly. The warm smiles, the jokes and everything about you. Farewell My Brother. In our Ghanaian Language we say "Da Yie" until we all meet up there. **Robert Boakye**

My dear friend Mr. Kwesi Danso and I started high school together with about 100 other students, at Oda Secondary School, in Ghana. Kwesi and I lived in the same dormitory until we graduated in 1972. Few years after, Kwesi moved to Jersey City, and I started visiting almost every other weekend. He got married to Sharon and I kept visiting. Kwesi always cracked jokes, I think because he wanted the people in his company to feel welcome. I just want to concentrate on his ability to accept a friend just as they are. When Kwesi was sick, I didn't know for about 8 months. I realized I had not talked to him for a while so I called to avoid his scolding. During this time, I learnt my 'brother' had been seriously ill. But he continued our normal relationship until the last days. For some reason when I heard: "Kwesi had passed about 2 hours ago", I was really sad, more than I should have been. I wasn't expecting that one. Even though he was giving me hints, like: " I have accepted my destiny" I am so sorry, Kwesi, Good bye. **-Paul Ofori-Atta**





# *Life is but a Stopping Place*

Life is but a stopping place,  
A pause in what's to be,  
A resting place along the road,  
to sweet eternity.  
We all have different journeys,  
Different paths along the way,  
We all were meant to learn some things,  
but never meant to stay...  
Our destination is a place,  
Far greater than we know.  
For some the journey's quicker,  
For some the journey's slow.  
And when the journey finally ends,  
We'll claim a great reward,  
And find an everlasting peace,  
Together with the lord  
Author unknown

## *Acknowledgement*

*We would like to thank all for their sincere acts of kindness and love shown during our difficult time. We pray God continues to bless and keep you all.*

*The Family of Kwesi Adu Asare Danso*

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