



Benjamin A. Kotey Jr.

June 26, 2023

He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; [4] he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.

Rev. 21 3-4

Benjamin Amon Nikoi Kotey Jr, affectionately known as Bra Nikoi or Ben was born on April 10, 1947, in Accra Ghana West Africa to the late Mr. Benjamin Amon Kotey and late Madame Elizabeth Dedei Aryee of Nikoi Olai family of Asere Djorshie and Ayi Deki family Gbese Anaje We, respectively. Bra Nikoi was the eldest son and second born of 12 children to an electrical engineer father and a mother who was both a housewife and entrepreneur. Bra Nikoi started his early life at Adabraka Asylum Down but at age six, together with his younger siblings, moved to the family house at Kaneshie Estates. At Kaneshie, Bra Nikoi grew up amongst several extended family members. This formed the foundation for Ben's love of family and social interactions.

Bra Nikoi began his basic education at Hansen Road, (Korle Gonno), and finished at Kaneshie Awudome Cluster of schools under the watchful eyes of

the renowned disciplinarian Teacher Kotei. Bra Nikoi rounded up his second and third-tier schooling by attending Tarkwa Technical and Takoradi Polytechnic University where he obtained an HND in welding mechanics and metallurgy. Ben was a longtime member of the charismatic Kwame Nkrumah's Young Pioneers. In the summer of 1964, Ben was among the group of the selected few known as "Youth of Excellence" within the Young Pioneer movement offered the opportunity to visit Russia.

As like most Ghanaians, soccer was his first love, Ben was an excellent soccer player and played for the local Kaneshie Black Pool. It was rumored he caught the eyes of one Gifty Naa Darkua because of his spectacular soccer field presence. He was also an ardent supporter of the Phobians, Accra Hearts of Oak and would proudly don the rainbow colors of the team, singing the anthem with his buddies on Sundays.

Ben started his professional career with the Ghanaian-British Steel company, Dorma Long and later joined the Volta Aluminum Company (VALCO). He bravely migrated to the USA in April 1973.

Ben was a fierce competitor, a loyal, fun-loving friend, and very determined to set his own path in life. His decision to migrate to the United States was made despite the protestation of his father who was concerned about the racial tensions of the 1970s in the USA.

Shortly upon arriving to the USA, he accepted a position with Krafft Service Corporation, an air conditioning company based in Alexandria, Virginia for several years. In addition to his

HVAC background, he worked as a Shipping and Receiving Manager for the Smithsonian National Art Institute for over a decade. Prior to his medical retirement, Ben was the lead shop foreman for over 20 years at C.B. Lucas in

Dumfries, Virginia.

After years of long-distance dating, his childhood sweetheart, Gifty Dodoo, arrived in the US from London in 1977. The pair married on May 27, 1978. Shortly after, their union was blessed with their first child, Wanda Naadei Kotey on October 12th, 1978. They went on to have two additional children, Aaron Nii Kote Kotey, and Elizabeth (Lisa) Naa Kuorkor Kotey. After successfully putting all three children through school and watching them graduate, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kotey were blessed with two bonus sons, Richard McAddy and Hassan Brown and a total of 6 grandchildren: Jesiah Kotey, Simone Stiell, Aiden Stiell, Noah McAddy, Ezra Brown, and Emory Brown.

Ben loved many things, but his top choices of enjoyment were sports, fashion and having a good time with family and friends. Ben loved to watch professional sports, specifically, American Football, Soccer, Wrestling, Boxing and Tennis. His Favorite teams were Manchester United and the Washington Commanders (formally known as The Redskins). He enjoyed both Wrestling Federations, WWF & WWE. In addition to sports, Ben had a passion for fashion. He always dressed impeccably, and each ensemble would accompany one of his famous Kangol hats. The Kotey residence was known for hosting the best and memorable parties in the area.

While Ben was a true family advocate, his generosity and spirit to help others flowed to extended family members and friends within the community. He and Gifty served as a gateway for others to establish a life here in the United States. He was a pioneer migrant who paved the way for our collective success. His courageous steps across new horizons planted seeds of hope and opportunity, ensuring that our family's legacy would be one of love, strength, unity, and perseverance. Through his acts of service and commitment to others he was adored and referred to often as “dad” by many

members of the local Ghanaian community.

Ben was the epitome of a warrior. Since 2009 he endured many health battles in which he defeated. His last battle which occurred in March 2023 was the toughest of all and really showcased his strength and determination to fight. He fought a long two-month journey in the intensive care unit and caused every physician on the unit to be a believer of his strength. Ultimately, as his condition progressed, he chose to come home on hospice to spend his remaining days surrounded by his family and in the comforts of his home.

Benjamin Amon Nikoi Kotey went to rest with his maker on June 26, 2023, Although, his death is difficult to accept for his family, siblings, the many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends who will sorely miss him, we are comforted by the knowledge that Bra Nikoi, Ben, died in the Lord and he is free from pain and suffering. He will rise with a glorious body at the resurrection when the saints go marching in.

Rest in Peace Trailblazer, Yaa wo ojogbaa.

*Please note:

The family requests that those in attendance wear all WHITE to all services.

**Hotel accommodations:

Spring Hill Suites- cutoff date is 9 August 2023

<https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.marriott.com%2Fevents%2Fstart.mi%3Fid%3D1690485848775%26key%3DGRP&data=05%7C01%7C%7C5d7e815cdf1144b8112408db8ed743aa%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638260827430807953%7CUknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJB Til6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GOTNgDY>

D73%2Bkf%2F7%2FboqdEHEZ0ieNNfNqmkjnZyajwcY%3D&reserved=0

Hilton Garden Inn - The cutoff date is on August 14, 2023. Reservation
Booking Code: "KF23" Booking Link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=DCAWBGI&groupCode=KF23&arrivaldate=2023-08-16&departuredate=2023-08-20&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

Christ Chapel Church
13909 Smoketown Road
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Requested dress for those in attendance: All white

Traditional Rites

AUG 18. 4:00 PM (ET)

Gray's Event Center
4323 Dale Blvd.
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Requested dress for those in attendance: All white

Thanksgiving Service

AUG 20. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Chapel Church
13909 Smoketown Road
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Requested dress for those in attendance: All white

Tribute Wall

YA

“ Yaw A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benjamin A. Kotey Jr..

Yaw A. - August 17, 2023 at 01:04 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Benjamin A. Kotey Jr..



August 15, 2023 at 10:34 AM

NI

“ Nephews, Nieces and All In-Laws purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Benjamin A. Kotey Jr..



Nephews, Nieces and All In-Laws - August 15, 2023 at 03:04 AM

SC

“ Siblings & Cousins purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Benjamin A. Kotey Jr..



Siblings & Cousins - August 15, 2023 at 02:36 AM

SC

“ *Siblings & Cousins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Benjamin A. Kotey Jr..*

Siblings & Cousins - August 15, 2023 at 02:36 AM

WK

“ *1 file added to the album Memories*



wkotey - August 14, 2023 at 01:11 AM

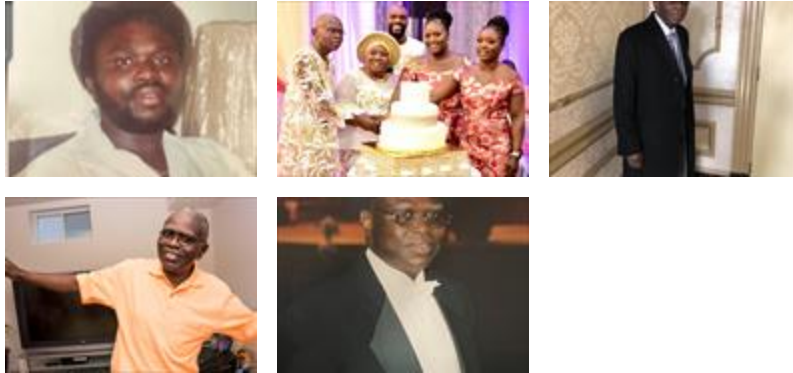
KK

“ *A loving, caring uncle who always made time to check in on his nieces. You will be missed dearly, but we know you are now at peace.
We can not question Gods choices but we find comfort in the fact that God knows best. Rest in peace Uncle Ben, forever in our hearts. With love, your nieces - Susie, Cynthia, Wendy, Keturah and Celeste xx*

Keturah Kotey - August 12, 2023 at 02:10 AM

WK

“ 11 files added to the album *Family Album*



wkotey - August 03, 2023 at 10:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Benjamin A. Kotey Jr..



July 29, 2023 at 01:49 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. Your Dad is now in heaven and looking down on you to guide you every day through life.* 🙏 *Stanley Grudzinski*

Stanley Grudzinski - July 29, 2023 at 09:28 AM

“ TRIBUTE FROM VICTOR ADJEI

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO A “DAREDEVIL”

“Cowards die many times before their death...” (wrote William Shakespeare). This statement by William Shakespeare, one of the greatest writers of antiquity, reminds me vividly of my friend, mentor and Big Brother, Mr. Benjamin Amon Nikoi Kotey. Uncle Ben, as I always call him, is by no means a coward. He is a true fighter and a survivor and I refuse to refer to him in the past tense as I strongly believe his spirit and soul are still alive and kicking.

I’ve known Uncle Ben for well over 50 years now, going back to Ghana where and when his father and my father were very good friends. When we met here in the United States during the latter part of the 1970s, I was then a student in a university in the state of Kentucky and I used to spend my vacations in Washington D.C, with the Cobblah family and Uncle Ben, being a close relative of the matriarch of the Cobblah family, always came by the house each time he heard I was in town. Uncle Ben became a true friend, mentor and a Big Brother to me. His love for American Professional Wrestling always saw us going to watch live wrestling matches together at the then Capital Center in Maryland and, of course, he always paid for my gate fees as well, constantly reminding me that I was a student and it was his obligation to take care of me. To this kind gesture, I’ve forever remained grateful.

Uncle Ben is a very courageous person who defied all the odds that came his way. You see, courage, it is said, is the power to face difficulties and, it is the opposite of being discouraged. It comes from a resource of mind more powerful than outside circumstances and Uncle Ben, my Big Brother, is an epitome of that.

To know Uncle Ben very well is to get closer to him and you’ll experience a very bold, daring, feisty, charismatic, unassuming and sometimes opinionated character. At the same time, Uncle Ben also

exhibits a gentle character and demeanor and we both developed and established a sincere mutual respect and admiration for each other. I feel honored to have encountered and interacted with such a loving and likable soul. Incidentally, we both share the same birth date, April 10th. What a coincidence.

To Uncle Ben, fear is just a word because when we challenge our fears we defeat them. This belief and attitude kept Uncle Ben going through all the challenges he came to encounter. He continued to persevere and beat all the odds time and time again – a true “Daredevil”. Just like the slogan of the famous soccer team from Ghana (Accra Hearts of Oaks) says, “NEVER SAY DIE UNTIL THE BONES ARE ROTTEN”.

The power to hold on, in spite of everything, is the ability to face defeat again and again without giving up and Uncle Ben always proved to be the winner. Through it all, Uncle Ben always took pains to overcome every obstacle that came his way. I salute you, Big Brother, and surely will have a glass of red wine on you – like we used to do. I sincerely believe that your soul and spirit are still lingering on, bold and energetic as always, just like the lyrics from the old Pirate song “John Brown’s body lies in the grave but his soul keeps marching on”.

Finally, Big Brother, peace comes when we live on a spirit of love and so be peaceful and keep on kicking.

Hedzɔɛ Aha Bo Koni Nunɔtsɔ Lɛ Kɛ Bo Ahishi Odzogbanɔ

EE

“ 11 files added to the album *Family Album*



eebrown986 - July 25, 2023 at 12:51 AM