



Gregory Lewis Harvey

March 29, 1948 - August 18, 2024

Gregory Lewis Harvey was born on March 29, 1948, in Baltimore, Maryland in the Cherry Hill neighborhood. He was the eldest of eight children born to John Lindsay Harvey Sr. and Doris Whitt. In his adult years, he selected the names Kamau (Quiet Warrior) Hasani (Handsome) Alonge (Tall, Skinny Boy) Ogbonna (He Resembles His Father), and Tyehimba (We Stand Together as a Family). The names chosen reflect his African origin and represent the Nguzo Saba principle of Kujichagulia (Self-Determination).

During his father's NASA assignment in Bermuda, Kamau graduated from Kindley AFB High School. His love for athletics was undeniable with his participation as a five-sport athlete in track, soccer, rugby, softball, and wrestling. His involvement in student government began the path he would later take in social and political movements. Kamau attended Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland in 1970 where he studied Psychology. He immediately became involved in the burgeoning Black Nationalist Movement and its call for Black racial unity and political self-determination. While at Morgan, he engaged in student politics and was a community organizer and disruptor in the face of injustices to Black people. He continued his studies in Psychology at the University of New Mexico. In February 1975, while in New Mexico, Kamau and Kibibi Tyehimba's first daughter Aisha Tyehimba was born. Two years later, in 1977, they relocated to Chicago, Illinois, and joined the growing local Black Nationalist Movement. Their second daughter, Safidi

Tyehimba, was born a few years later in Chicago. As he continued his work in the movement, he embraced and raised another daughter, Ley Ana Crumpton.

Kamau lived over 40 years of his life in Chicago making important contributions to Chicago's Black political, social, and artistic communities. He joined the Institute for Positive Education/New Concept Development Center where he taught third grade. He co-founded Reel Black Film Makers and founded Changing Reels Video Production Service, an independent video production company. He additionally had a career with the Federal Reserve Bank which lasted 24 years.

Chicago is where Kamau met and fell in love with Deborah. He proposed to her during a trip to Senegal. During the proposal, he bestowed on her three names with Thandiwe becoming her cherished first name. They wed in a beautiful ceremony in August 2004.

Kamau 's love of Black people and the struggle for Black self-liberation led him to join the US Organization founded by Dr. Maulana Karenga. The organization was instrumental in shaping Kamau's deep love and respect for Black people. He served as a mentor and community Baba, (father) and co-founded the Nantambu Rites of Passage Organization as a platform to contribute to the development of Black youth. He encouraged, taught and mentored Black youth sharing with them his passion and love for the art of filmmaking. He relished taking youth to film screenings and spent time teaching videography in schools. Kamau engaged as many young people and adults as possible to create awareness of the beauty and necessity of telling Black stories.

Wanting to move closer to family in Baltimore, and with Thandiwe's support, they left Chicago and moved to Maryland in 2021. Once settled, Kamau threw

himself into genealogy and reconnected with his family. He committed birthdays and anniversaries to memory and would always call or text his well wishes. He excitedly matched voices, faces and names to family he missed, spoke with by phone or met upon his return. He found many connections through the family tree where he spent a lot of time researching his roots. An elder himself, he still revered his aunts and uncle displaying the ultimate respect they deserved. He was a proud and doting Pop Pop an adoring, gentle patriarch to his daughters, and a pillar of support for his siblings in the absence of their parents, brother and sister who transitioned.

Kamau Tyehimba lived his life "in love and struggle" before transitioning to the ancestral realm on August 18, 2024, at 76 years of age. He was preceded by his parents, John Harvey Sr. and Doris Whitt, his brother John Jr. (Johnnie), and his sister, Beverly Jo (Joey). He is survived by his loving wife, Deborah "Thandiwe Tyehimba" Harvey. Surviving siblings are William "Bill" Harvey (Lasana), his partner, Jocelyn Carlton-Lewis; Steven Harvey, and his wife, Madeline Harvey; the twins, Karen Harvey-McLamb and husband Donald McLamb Sr.; Alan Harvey, and wife Yvette Harvey; and sister Linda Harvey. He is also survived by daughters, Aisha Tyehimba, son-in-love, Toussaint Tingling-Clemmons; Safidi Murphy, son-in-love, Brandon Murphy, Ley Ana Crumpton; and two grandsons Bradlee Murphy and Porter Crumpton. He also leaves to mourn his sister-in-love Janet Redmond, her husband Kenny, brother-in-love Leonard Minor, and his wife Carlotta. He had a special love for John Daves and his wife, Jeanine. Beloved aunts and an uncle remember him fondly along with a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Kamau also leaves an abundance of treasured, friends, brothers and sisters in the struggle, lovers of African drumming and dance, crooners, and students of life. He will be missed tremendously.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, please donate to the africanamericanculturalcenter-la.org in memory of Kamau Tyehimba. A donation button can be found on the organization's website.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 21. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Pope Funeral Home Forestville Chapel
5538 MARLBORO PIKE
FORESTVILLE, MD 20747

Tribute Wall



“ Pope Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Gregory Lewis Harvey



Pope Funeral Homes - September 21, 2024 at 05:14 PM

AB

“ A gentle Giant has transitioned to the Ancestral Realm. He Leaves a legacy that has impacted so many who knew him. A true Cultural Warrior. All who knew him are blessed that his kind spirit touched your soul. Rest in Power Good Brother as you continue giving strength as a Mighty Ancestor. ❤️💚🖤👊

Akosua Bandele - September 21, 2024 at 03:12 PM

TJ

“ My heart goes out to you in your time of sorrow. I will pray that you find some comfort during this dark time. My prayers and much love for you and your family.

Trevor James



Trevor James - September 21, 2024 at 02:02 PM

BK

“ I have known *Baba Kamau* for a short period of time i loved his spirt ,and his love and concern for our *People*.May he kazi &work in peace.*Baba Imamu*

Baba Imamu Kuumba - September 21, 2024 at 01:08 PM

BI

“ *Bianca* sent a virtual gift in memory of *Gregory Harvey*



Bianca - September 21, 2024 at 01:07 PM

MK

“ I, Mansong Kulubally offer my heart felt condolences to Kamau's nuclear family, as well as those in his "struggle community" family. I was shocked upon hearing the sad news. I had spoken to Kamau by telephone it seems just a month or so...before his untimely "Passing". Kamau, (Quiet Warrior) was a steadfast Nationalist/Pan-Africanist in the Kawaida Philosophy Tradition! In fact, altho I had seen him over many years as he worked thru I.P.E., and the Communiversity folk...it is thru my involvement with the then Kawaida Groundwork Committee,(early 1980's) that I came to meet and interact with him. I was advocating and practicing Kawaida down in Jacksonville, Florida thru my organization..."Some Positive People". I lived in Florida at that time, and participated in Dr. Maulana Karenga's month long Seminar on Leadership for Social change...thru their Summer Institute. That is when they were located on LaBrea. Kamau sought me out when I was back up in Chicago for copies of the cassette tapes I made of many of the Lectures by Dr. Karenga during that month long Seminar/training. He was happy to have copies of those; as he was a "sho-nuff" Kawaida Man! We became formal comrades from that point. Kamau, Yusufu Mosely, (now an Ancestor) and I...would be key Chicago advocates of Kawaida Philosophy. We would cross paths during various trips to Los Angeles to participate in summer institutes, Kwanzaa celebrations and Nguzo Saba conferences. We also spread Kawaida to folk here in Chicago, as I had done while living and organizing down in Florida. Kamau was a disciplined Brother, who was very serious about advocating and practicing Kawaida Philosophy. He had the discipline that Yusufu and I sometimes lacked. He was very much appreciated by the members of Us organization, who were the driving force in the creation of the African-American Culture Center...SOPPAC and a variety of other "National Culture" projects. Here in Chicago, and in other places around the country...Kamau was respected and admired. He will be missed; but his Spirit and legacy will continue to inspire and strengthen our resolve to continue our historic struggle against, as Dr. Karenga teaches..."want, toil, and domination at the hands of others"! Salute! to you...my "Big Brother"! (He was 3 years my

senior)

Mansong Kulubally - September 21, 2024 at 10:42 AM

KH

“ *The raised eyebrow...(meant, you got his attention)...the eye contact...(meant, you got mine too)...followed by almost uncontrollable chuckles, snickering, raucous or explosive laughter... That was OUR thing... However, I can imagine Kamau’s laughter has blessed many of the lives he’s touched or come in contact with. Over the phone or in person it was infectious. Family meant so much to him; he made it his business to try to see/contact us all when he returned back to Maryland after being in Chicago 40 plus years. You are loved and missed brother, you’ve made a huge impact on all of us... a quote from Kamau “Ain’t that something?”*

Karen Harvey-McLamb - August 28, 2024 at 07:40 AM

DJ

I was so happy when we connected on Facebook. I lived up the street from his family in Cherryhill. I was a babysitter for the 4 older kids. I was a teenager and they were the best kids!

Deborah Johnson - September 22, 2024 at 09:24 AM

LS

“ It's nearly impossible to think of you as more than a phone call away. Your distinctive baritone voice and enormous laughter, wisdom, kindness and thoughtfulness brought a calming effect to every conversation. You had a steadiness that attracted us and protected us. Your deep love and abiding commitment to the people, young and old, crossed the waters from America to the Motherland. One could easily say you were a historian, a spokesmen and a connector to the African diaspora always speaking out on our behalf, always on the ready. That is the man that you are. But to my husband Luther, who he called Luke, he was first and foremost a dear friend for nearly 50 years. Since their birthdays were just a week apart, Deborah often celebrated them together with music, food, friends and a lesson or two from Kemau. When he held court, all listened and learned. I could often hear them on the phone talking about music especially the Temptations, the Manhattans, the Dramatics and all the great vocal groups and singers and the harmonies they produced. And also, at times, conversations about the ups and downsides of life that cannot be avoided. We can't say how much we'll miss you, my friend, so instead we'll simply say may sweet harmonies surround you as you soar.



*Luther and Judith Stanton
Chicago, Illinois*

Luther Stanton - August 26, 2024 at 11:23 PM