

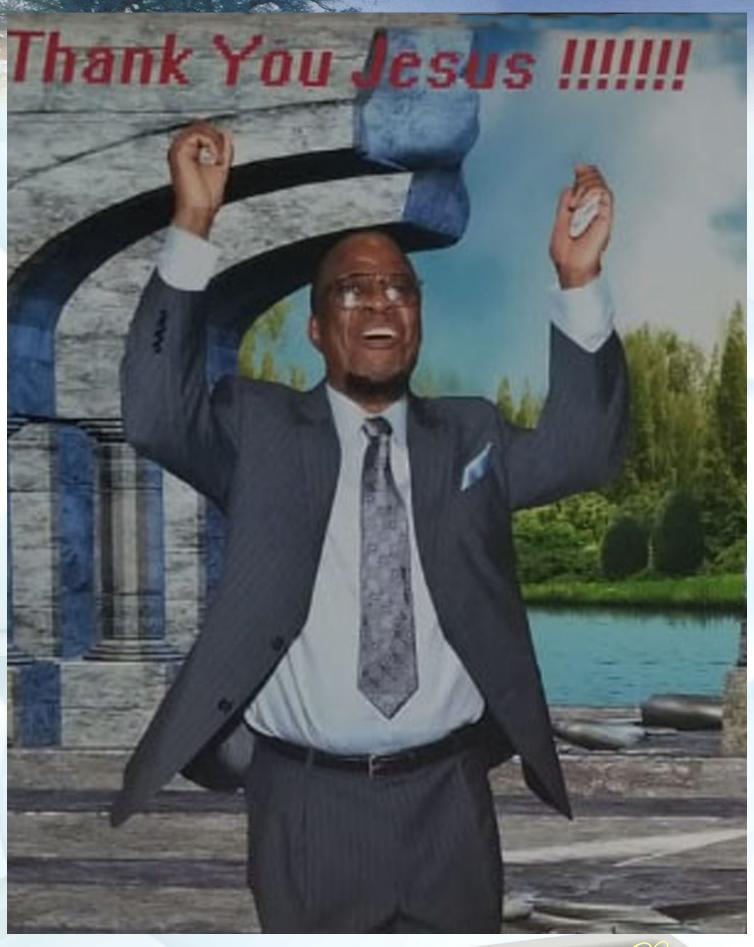
IFEANYI CHARLES ANTHONY OKPALOBI, M.D.

(Onwa of Achalla - Ibusa)

November 1, 1942 - November 15, 2018

Custodians of the Conscience

SOUVENIR JOURNAL



### Welcome to

Dr. Jeanyi CHARLES OKPALOBI



Dr. Ifeanyichukwu Charles Anthony Okpalobi (Onwa of Achalla - Ibusa)

Saturday, February 1, 2019



A good life is a Collection of happy Moments

Ifeanyi Lived every moment as a treasured gift of God



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Kaomesia! Doc







### TRANSITION TO GLORY



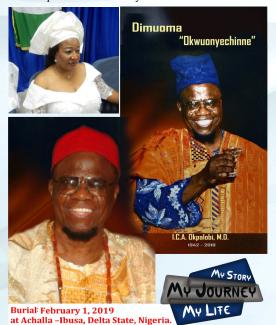
#### Dr. Ifeanyi Okpalobi's Life of leadership and kindness

Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi, M.D

Sunrise: November 1, 1942 Sunset: November 15, 2018

With gratitude to God and trust in the power of divine providence, the family of Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi, M.D. requests your presence to bid the last farewell to our leader, husband, father, step father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, elder statesman who made a difference in many people's lives. Your attendance will be fully appreciated.

Sincerely Uche Okpalobi for the family



By Dr. Chido Nwangwu

"The best way to predict your future is to create it." Evidently, over the years, it would seem as if young Ifeanyi Okpalaobi read those timeless, wise words from Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was the sixteenth President of the United States, serving from March 4, 1861 until his assassination on April 15, 1865.

Second, Dr. Okpalaobi was truly a man of his people. He was people oriented; and his people were not just the delta Igbo but responsible persons from all corners of the earth.

Third, he was a first class practitioner; a consummate professional! To the best of my knowledge, no one ever said or complained that the good doctor was hostile for reasons of discrimination.

Fourth, for him, life is a struggle for the competitive best. I know because he told me when he saw, strongly commended and supported my work at USAfrica and CLASSmagazine in Houston, Texas.

Fifth, he held the candle for scholastic excellence through his younger years in school.

Sixth, Like the great Nelson Mandela wrote "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Okpalaobi believed and facilitated the power value and potentials of education.

Seventh, the distinguished gentleman interacted with life and friends with a positive and sunny outlook, every day, anywhere!

Eighth, he was a man with the milk of human kindness and philanthropic zeal. Dr. Okpalaobi loved his Family and his work but his greatest legacy Continues to shine bright for giving those in need!

Ninth, how could we ever forget his level of personal engagement with the civic and political organizations in the Diaspora.

Tenth, without any doubts, he proved to us with his towering example and relentless commitment that a professional will work and still be involved in the important matters of social and cultural progress of our community!

Long live, the name And the heritage and the legacy of Dr. Ifeanyichukwu Okpalaobi!!

Thank You!!!

Dr. Chido Nwangwu who appears as an analyst on the CNN and SkyNews, serves as the Founder & Publisher of the first African-owned, U.S-based newspaper published on the internet, USAfricaonline.com and author of the 2019 book on Power, Leadership & Identity [MLK, Mandela & Achebe]. He served as an adviser to Houston's Mayor on Africa business.



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# Biography of Dr. Ifeanyichukwu Charles Anthony Okpalobi, M.D. (Onwa of Achalla - Ibusa)





**Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi**, 76 years old, affectionately known as "DOC" departed this life on November 15, 2018.

#### His Birth

He was born November 1, 1942, the youngest of twelve children of Mr. Egbonsor Okpalobi and Ozubu Odiadi, in Achalla Ibusu Nigeria. He leaves to mourn, his loving wife of 18 years, Rose Obiagheli Okpalobi; three sons: Uche Okpalobi, Dr. Emeka Okpalobi, Ifeanyi Okpalobi Jr.; Three Stepsons: Uchena Tabugbo, Stanley Tabugbo, Justin Tabugbo; Eight Grandchildren: Britton, Michaela, Sahara, Blaire, Hannah, Daisy, Avina and Mason: one Great Granddaughter: Rylynn; A daughter-in-law, Kristyn Okpalobi, His Nephews who were more like his brothers, Chuka Okpalobi, Sonny Okpalobi, Steve Okpalobi, Andy Okpalobi and Mike Nwaokobia, His nieces, Isioma Iwuorah, Anwhili Monye, Rev. Dr. Felicia Okpalobi Biokoro, Uwaoma Okpalobi Onoh, Franka Nwosu, Anthonia Azubogu, Awhili Anuli Monye as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends.

(Continued on page 6)





#### Survived by

Dr. Okpalobi was preceded in death by his parents, Egbonsor Okpalobi and Ozubu Odiadi, and his siblings, Chief Sylvester Adigwe Okpalobi, William Okpalobi, and sister, Igbogantiokwu Okpalobi Kanikwu. The last child of a well renowned trader and an accomplished farmer, his parents were well-respected members of the Achalla Ibusa Community.

#### **Early Life and Education**

In the Mid-1940s to Early 1950s, Dr. Okpalobi attended St. Bridget's Primary School Enugu. After which he pursued his secondary education in the Mid-1950s at Government College Owerri, on full academic scholarship, where he was predominantly a science student. After his Secondary education, Dr. Okpalobi started his career as Science Teacher in Lagos, teaching Biology, Physics and Chemistry. A man of high intellectual ability and unquenchable appetite for learning, he obtained a scholarship to study Industrial Chemistry in Cairo, Egypt in the Late 1950s. While in Egypt, he developed a love for the medical sciences and changed his major to Medicine. Dr. Okpalobi obtained his medical degree in the Mid-1960s at Cairo Medical School just as the Nigerian Civil War started in 1967. Unable to return home due to the Civil War, he proceeded to Copenhagen, Denmark to further advance his medical degree and career between 1967 and 1971. In January 1972, he left Denmark for New York City, USA, to start his Medical Residency at New York City Health and Hospital Corporation, a reputable medical and teaching hospital affiliated with College of Physicians and Surgeons at Harlem Hospital Center. He completed his Surgical Residency in June 1973. Upon completion of his Residency, Dr. Okpalobi obtained his Medical License in November 1974 issued by the State of Tennessee. From July 1974 to June 1977, he pursued his Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

#### His work and Practice

Thereafter, Dr. Okpalobi practiced medicine at many reputable Hospitals in Tennessee and Ohio until moving to New Orleans in the Late 1970s to start his private medical practice. In New Orleans, Dr. Okpalobi became a Board Certified Obstetrician and Gynecologist in November 1982 and established the Gentilly Medical Center for Women and St. Claude Medical Clinic. A hard worker with passion for excellence, he was affiliated with various hospitals in New Orleans including Lakeland Hospital.

#### Entrepreneur

An entrepreneur at heart with a passion to create opportunities for others, he established many businesses in New Orleans. To mention a few: Anioma Home Health Care, Inc., A home health care agency that catered for the sick and homebound; Anioma Living, Inc., an independent living facility that provided a safe home for the most vulnerable in the community; African Chambers of Commerce, Inc., a business gateway between business groups, institutions, governments, organizations, companies and communities in the United States, Africa, Asia and other countries of the world with active interest in com-

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

merce in the emerging markets in Africa, Crescent City International Inc.; and Rivers Trading Company; international trade organizations conducting import and export trade between United States and other parts of the world. Throughout his business career, Dr Okpalobi directly and indirectly created thousands of jobs in the New Orleans Community and also in Nigeria.

**Appointments and Service** 

Dr. Okpalobi served as a member of the Board of Directors of the New Orleans World Trade Center and New Orleans Global Tour to Hong Kong. He helped and assisted in facilitating New Orleans and other U.S. Cities in driving development of African Oil Industries by directing oil-producing States in the United States to become a storehouse of oil producing equipment and personnel in Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. Furthermore, Dr. Okpalobi assisted in trade and investment activities between Southern University, Baton Rouge and Louisiana State University with the Agricultural Farm Project of the late Chief Moshood Abiola's, Abiola Farms. He assisted in hosting several interactive meetings between many African ambassadors, members of diplomatic corps, political leaders and investors in the State of Louisiana.

His Christian Life and Philanthropy

Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi was a devout Catholic and parishioner at Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, International Shrine of St. Jude in New Orleans, Louisiana. A testament to his philanthropic nature, he built and donated a church to the Achalla-Ibusa community in Delta State, Nigeria.

#### His Social and Political Life

Dr. Okpalobi was a member and patron of Peoples Democratic Party of Nigeria – United States of America National Chapter (PDP-USA). Doc was a founding member of Organization of Nigerian Professionals USA (ONP) Doc belonged to Anioma Organization and participated in many Socio Cultural Organization activities including World Igbo Congress (WIC)

#### A solid Family man

Dr. Okpalobi was a solid family man – married to Mrs. Obiagheli Rose Okpalobi, his wife of 18 years until death. Ifeanyi had 3 boys and 3 stepchildren with Rose. Doc was blessed with grandchildren and a great grand- child.

Undoubtably a man with many educational and career accomplishments, Dr. Okpalobi will mostly be remembered and missed for his generosity, his love for family, his outreach and philanthropy in the his new country, the United States of America, his new hometown, the City of New Orleans, his Country of Origin, Nigeria, his birth hometown, Achalla, Ibusa, Delta State, Nigeria.

Relatives and friends of the family attended A at Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, Interna-



Mass

of Christian Burial tional Shrine of St.

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

Jude, in New Orleans Louisiana, USA on Saturday, December 8, 2018 Arrangements by D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to sign the guestbook.



A Religious Man

St. Dominique Achalla-Ibusa

The Church that Okpalobi built at Achalla

Kaomesia! Doc

#### **Order for Funeral Service Mass**

Entrance Hynm (From Selected Hynm) Opening Prayer

Alleluia! Alleluia! Happy are those who died in the Lord Let them rest from labor for their good deeds Go with them. Alleluia



All powers goes out of love for Christ and his Church——, your hand maid served you faithfully in this life, may He rejoice at the coming of your glory and Enjoy eternal happiness in your kingdom. We ask this through our lord Jesus Christ your son who lives and reign forever and ever ...Amen

#### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (isa.25:6-9)

On this mountain, the lord of host will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain he remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations. He will destroy death forever. The lord will wipe away the tears from every check, he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the lord has said so, that day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hopes for salvation, the lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoiced that he has saved us.

This is the word of the Lord.

#### R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm (PS 23)

Response:

The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want

- 1. The lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want, /fresh and green are the pastures where he give me response./ Near restful waters he leads me. /To revive my drooping spirit/
- 2. He guide me along the right path./ He is true to his name, / if I shall walk in the valley of darkness / no evil shall I fear, / you are there with your rock and your staff,/ with these you give me comfort.
- 3. You have prepared a banquet for me sight of my foes./my head you anointed with oil, /my cup is over flowing.
- 4. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. /in the Lord's own house shall I dwell/ for ever and ever/

#### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St/ Pail to the Romans (Romans) 14:7-9)

The life and death of each of us it's influence on others. If we live for the Lord; and if we die we die for the lord. So that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. The explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

This is the word of the lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Gospel Acclamation

#### **GOSPEL**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (11:17-27)

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been buried four days before. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem. And many Judea have come to see Martha and Mary

Comfort them about their brother's death

When Martha had that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. Mary stayed in the house Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, Lord my brother would not have died but I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask him for, 'your brother will rise to life, Jesus told her. I know she replied "that he will rise to life on the last day, Jesus said to her. I "am the resurrection and the life. Whosoever believes in me will never die, Do you believe this?

Yes, lord, "she answered, "I do believe that you are the messiah, the son of God, who is to come into the world."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

#### R. Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ

#### **HOMILY**

Prayer of the Faithful

#### Introduction

Let us pray with faith and confidence to God our father who live forever and who can do all things, as raised his son Jesus Christ from the dead, so may he give peace and salvation to both the living and the dead.

- For our father and brother that he may share the light of Christ resurrection. Come into life of happiness and peace. We pray, O God.
- 2. For those to whom this world is the be-all and end all, that they may come to believe the good news of salvation, renew their life and have faith in Christ who is the way, the truth and the life. We pray, O Lord
- 3. For Those suffering on account of bereavement, that the generosity of their fellow Christians may give them new function and help to retrieve their anxiety. We pray, O Lord.
- 4. For all who gathered here to pray for Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi that we may always live, act and speak in full realization that one day we shall be called one day upon to answer for thought, words and actions. We pray O lord.
- For the sick and suffering, that Jesus Christ who showed great mercy to the inform and the trouble may show them his bounteous mercy, bestow upon them every heavenly blessings and restore to them lasting health of mind and body. We pray O Lord.
- 6. For all who have passed from this life, that our Lord Jesus Christ to whom it belongs to grant mercy, may spare and remit their sins and welcome them into his Kingdom of peace and glory we pray O Lord



#### CONCLUSION

O lord may these humble petitions find favor in your presence for the salvation of Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi your hand maid and all who died

R. Amen

Offertory Hymn (From Selected Hymns, Pages....)

#### PRAYER OVER THE GIFT:

Lord, receive the gift we offer for the salvation of our brother, Father, Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi may Christ be merciful in judging him for the believe in Christ as the Lord and savior

- 1. Opening Hymn
- 2. Let us Pray
- 3. Entrance procession
- 4. Opening prayer
- 5. Liturgy of the world
- 6. Responsirate psalm
- 7. Second reading
- 8. Gospel Acclamation
- 9. Offertory Hymns
- 10. Liturgy of the Eucharist
- 11. Preface
- 12. Sanctums
- 13. Communion Hymn
- 14. Hymn No.1—Pss me not, O gentle Saviour
- 15. Hymn No. 2—How Great Thou Art
- 16. Prayer after Communion
- 17. Final Commendation and farewell
- 18. Photo Gallery
- 19. Announcement and thanks giving at the grave side let us pray
- 20. All say the lord's prayer together
- 21. Hymns/prayer
- 22. Life and time
- 23. Tributes

#### **OPENING HYMN**

#### HARK! HARK! HARK!

Chorus: Angles of Jesus, Angles of light, Singing to welcome the pilgrims of the night

- 1. Hark! Hark! My soul Angelic Songs are swelling o'er earth's green fields and ocean's wave beat shore; How sweet the truth those blessed strains are telling, of that new life when sin shall be no more.
- Onward we go, for still we hear them singing. Come weary soul for Jesus blade you come, and through the dark, it's echoes sweetly ringing the music of the gospel leads us home.
- 3. Far, far away, like a bell at evening pealing, the voice of Jesus sounds o'er land and sea and laden souls by thousands o'er land stealing. Kingly shepherd, turn their weary steps to thee.
- 4. Rest comes at length, through life be long and weary. The day must go down and dark at night be past. All journey ends in welcome to the weary. And heaven, heart's true home, will



5. Angels sing one, your faithful watches keeping. Sing us sweet fragment of the songs above, while we toll on, and south ourselves with weeping, till life's long night shall break in endless love.

The coffin is placed at the entrance to the church. The priest then goes in procession along with the ministers carrying the cross, candles holy water and a piece of white cloth.

C: In the name of the father....

Praise be to God the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of mercies and the God of all consolation, he comfort us in all our afflictions and this enable us to comfort those who are in trouble, with the same consolation we have received from him.

All: Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus

The priest then sprinkles the coffin and holy water and says: I bless the body of Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi with the holy water that recalls his baptism of which St. Pail write, "All of us who are baptized into Christ Jesus were Baptist into His death. By baptism into his death we were buried together with Him so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him by likeness to his death so shall we be united with Him by Likeness to His resurrection."

A White cloth is placed on the coffin then the priest says:

On the day of your baptism you put on Christ in the day of Christ's coming may you be clothed with glory.

#### LET US PRAY

Father hear our prayer and be merciful to your son Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi whim you have called from this life, welcome him into the company of saint in the kingdom of light and peace, through Christ our Lord

All: Amen

The book of gospel is placed on the coffin, the priest then says: The Gospel, the good news of salvation: has been your rule and guide during your life. May it now assist you in journey to the fulfillment of salvation, which you so much desired.

All: Amen

#### **ENTRANCE PROCESSIION**

The priest and the minister now go in procession to the alter with the coffin coming behind them, Meanwhile the following song or recited.

Reader: I am the bread of life; He who comes to me shall not hunger: He who believes in me shall not thirst, No one can come to me unless the father draws him.

All: And I will raise him up (3X) on the last day. Reader: The bread that I will give, is my flesh for the life of the world. And he who eats this bread, He shall live forever (2x)

All: And I will raise him up (3X) on the last day.





Reader: As the living father sent me as I live because of the father

so he who eats me shall live because of me

All: And I will raise hum up on the last day

Reader: I am the resurrection, I am the life, we who believes in me, even if he dies, shall life forever,

All: And I will raise him up on the last day

The coffin is place between candles, the priest venerated the alters and goes to the chair and says

C. The grace of our lord Jesus Christ the Lord of God and the fellowship of the holy spirit be with you all.

All: All also with you

C. My Brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries, let us call to mind our sins.

After a brief silence all say,

All: I confess to almighty God and to you my brothers and sisters, That I have sinned through my own fault in my thought and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do sisters pray for me to the Lour our God

 May almighty God have mercy on us our sins and bring us to everlasting life

All: Amen

C: Lord Have mercy All: Lord Have mercy C: Christ have mercy All: Christ have mercy

C. Lord have mercy All: Lord have mercy

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God our father, we firmly believe that your son died and rose to life, we pray for the servant Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi who died in Christ, raised from the last day to the glory to share the glory of the risen Christ who lives and reigns with you and the holy spirit, one God forever and ever, Amen

#### LITURGY OF WORD

#### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of wisdom 4:7-15

The virtuous man, though he died before his time; will find rest, length of days is not what makes age honorable, nor number of years the truth measure of life, understanding, this man's grey hairs, untarnished life, this is ripe old age, he has sought to please God so God has loved hi,: as he was living among sinners, he has been taken up, he has been carried off so that evil may not warp his things into the Shade and the whirlwind of desire corrupt a simple heart. Coming to the perfection in a short while. He achieved long life: his soul being pleasing to the Lord, he has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him. Yet people look on, uncomprehending, it does not enter their heads that grace and mercy await chosen of the Lord, and protecting is only ones

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

THE LORD IS MY SHEPERD

Antiphon: His goodness shall follow me always to the end of my

days.

1. The Lord is my shepherd: There is nothing I shall want. Fresh green are pastures where he gives me response, to revive my dropping spirit

2. He guide me along the right path. He is true to his name, if I shall walk in the valley of darkness. No evil shall I fear, you are there with your rock and your staff, with these you give me comfort.

3. You have prepared a banquet for me sight of my foes. my head you anointed with oil, my cup is over flowing.

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the lord's own house shall fear? Forever and ever

#### SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter St. Paul to the Thessalonicle 4:13-18

We want you to be quiet certain, sisters about those who died: to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hopes, we believe that Jesus died and rose again and that will be the same for those who died in Jesus, God will bring them with him.

We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the lords coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the Lord himself will come down from heaven, those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up with such thoughts as these you should comfort one another. The Word of the Lord

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

It is my fathers who says the Lord that whoever believes in the son shall have eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day. Alleluia

#### GOSPEL Reading

A reading from Holy Gospel according to John 14:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples:

Do not let your heart be troubled

Trust in God still and trust in me,

There are many rooms in my Father's house

If there were not, I should have told you

And after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me, so that where

I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going

Thomas said: Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way? Jesus said;

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the father except through me".

The Gospel of Lord

All: Praise to you lord Jesus Christ.

#### **HOMILY**

#### PRAYER FOR THE FAITHFUL

Opening Christ our Lord, by his death and victory over sin has opened the gate of heavens for His people: let us pray that the soul



May come to his True home in heaven and God in time routine us

Reader: Let us together pray for the response of the soul of Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi and ask God to console all who Chorus: I surrender all(2X) mourn his loss, giving them the grace to prepare for a happy death. We pray O Lord

All: Hear our humble prayer, mercy o your people, O lord. Reader: Let us pray for the family, relatives and friends of Cr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi that they may take comfort and rejoice in the word "I am the resurrection and the life" We pray O

All: Hear our humble prayer, mercy o your people, O lord. Reader: Let us pray that all God's people will be prepared for the glorious day when Jesus will transform their bodies into copies of his own glorious bodies in heaven. We pray O lord.

All: Hear our humble prayer, mercy o your people, O lord. Reader: Let us pray for the faithful departed that may reign in joy of heaven with Christ and the saints, we pray O lord

Priest: O God our creator and redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the soul of your Departed servant, forgiveness of all their sins, let our loving entreaties obtain for them the pardon they had always desire through Christ our Lord. Amen

#### **OFFERTORY HYMNS**

HYMN 316: YES I SHALL RISE

Refrain: Yes, I shall arise and return to my father

- To you O Lord, I lift up my soul. In you O my god, I place all my trust.
- 2. Look down on me, have mercy O Lord, forgive me my sins, behold all my grief.
- My heart and soul shall yearn for your face. Be gracious to me Father, all powerful and everlasting God, and answer my plea.
- Do not withhold your goodness from me: O Lord may your love be deep in my soul.
- To you I pray have pity on me; My God I have sinned against your great love.
- 6. Mercy I cry O lord, wash me clean and whiter than snow my spirit shall be.
- 7. Give me again the joy of your help now my lips your praise I
- 8. Happy is he forgiven by his sins blotted out. His guilt is no more.
- 9. You are my joy, my refuge and strength, let all Upright heart give praise to the Lord
- 10. My soul will sing my heart will rejoice, the blessings of the lord will fill all my days.

#### CHB HYMN 106: ROCK OF AGES

- Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee, let the water and the blood from the river side which flowed be of sin Chorus: in double cure save me from it's guilt and power.
- Not the labor of my hands can fulfill the law's demands; could my zeal no close in Respite know, all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.
- Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling naked, come to thee for grace. Foul, I to fountain fly wash me savior
- While I draw this fleeting breath, when I soar to world's unknown, see the on thy judgment throne Rock of age, cleft for

me, let me hide myself in thee





#### CHB HYMN 276: I SURRENDER ALL

All to thee, my blessed savior, I surrender all.

- 1. All to Jesus I surrender. All to him I freely I give. All to Jesus
- I surrender. Humble at his feet I bow. I will ever love and trust him in his present daily live worldly.
- Pleasure all forsake take me Jesus, Take me now. All to Jesus I surrender Lord I give myself to thee Fill me thy blessing fall on me.
- 4. All to Jesus I surrender now I feel the sacred flame; O the joy of full salvation, Glory, Glory to his name!

#### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gift

Have pity, we pray to you Lord, on the soul Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi whom we offer the sacrifice of praise, humbly entreating your majesty that through our offering of expiration he may attain to eternal rest, through our Lord Jesus Christ your son who reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen

Priest: The Lord be with you All: And also with you Priest: Lift up your

All: We have lifted them up to the lord Priest: Let us give thanks to the lord our God All: It is right to give him thanks and praise

#### PREFACE

We do well always and everywhere

To give you thank through Jesus Christ our Lord

In him who rose from the dead,

Our hope of resurrection dawned. The sadness of death give way.

To the bright promise of immortality

Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended when the body our early dwelling lies death, we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven, in his unending hymn of praise.

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy

Lord God of hosts

Heaven and earth are fully of thy glory,

Hosanna in the highest.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus sunt caeli et terra Gloria tua Hosanna in excelsis. Benedict qul venit in nommine Domini, hosanna in excelsis,

#### HYMN NO.2—How Great thou Art

Then sing my soul, my savior God to thee.

How great thou art, how great thou art Then sings my soul, my savior God to thee How great thou art, how great thou art

- 1. Oh lord my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the work thy hand made, I see the starts, hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed
- 2. And when I think that God, his son not sparing sent him to die, I scare can take in that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing; he bled and died to take away my sin.





All powers goes out of love for Christ and his Church——, your hand maid served you faithfully in this life, may He rejoice at the coming of your glory and Enjoy eternal happiness in your kingdom. We ask this through our lord Jesus Christ your son who lives and reign forever and ever ...Amen

#### FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (isa.25:6-9)

On this mountain, the lord of host will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food. On this mountain he remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations. He will destroy death forever. The lord will wipe away the tears from every check, he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the lord has said so, that day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hopes for salvation, the lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoiced that he has saved us.

This is the word of the Lord.

#### R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm (PS 23)

Response:

The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want

- The lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want, /fresh and green are the pastures where he give me response./ Near restful waters he leads me. /To revive my drooping spirit/
- He guide me along the right path./ He is true to his name, / if I shall walk in the valley of darkness / no evil shall I fear, / you are there with your rock and your staff,/ with these you give me comfort.
- You have prepared a banquet for me sight of my foes. /my head you anointed with oil, /my cup is over flowing.
- 4. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. /in the Lord's own house shall I dwell/ for ever and ever/

#### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St/ Pail to the Romans (Romans) 14:7-9)

The life and death of each of us it's influence on others. If we live for the Lord; and if we die we die for the lord. So that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. The explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

This is the word of the lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Gospel Acclamation





Alleluia! Alleluia!
Happy are those who died in the Lord

Let them rest from labor for their good deeds Go with them. Alleluia

**GOSPEL** 

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (11:17-27)

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been buried four days before. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem. And many Judea have come to see Martha and Mary

Comfort them about their brother's death

When Martha had that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. Mary stayed in the house Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, Lord my brother would not have died but I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask him for, 'your brother will rise to life, Jesus told her. I know she replied "that he will rise to life on the last day, Jesus said to her. I "am the resurrection and the life. Whosoever believes in me will never die, Do you believe this?

Yes, lord, "she answered, "I do believe that you are the messiah, the son of God, who is to come into the world."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ

**HOMILY** 

Prayer of the Faithful

Introduction

Let us pray with faith and confidence to God our father who live forever and who can do all things, as raised his son Jesus Christ from the dead, so may he give peace and salvation to both the living and the dead.

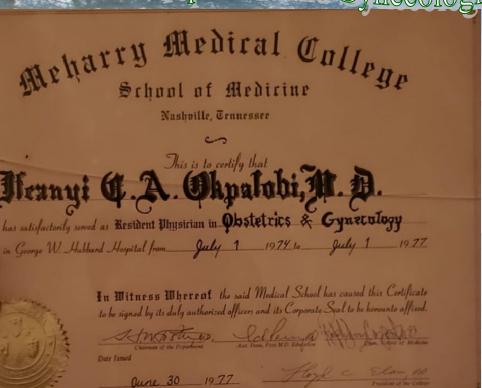
- For our father and brother that he may share the light of Christ resurrection. Come into life of happiness and peace. We pray, O God.
- 2. For those to whom this world is the be-all and end all, that they may come to believe the good news of salvation, renew their life and have faith in Christ who is the way, the truth and the life. We pray, O Lord
- 3. For Those suffering on account of bereavement, that the generosity of their fellow Christians may give them new function and help to retrieve their anxiety. We pray, O Lord.
- 4. For all who gathered here to pray for Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi that we may always live, act and speak in full realization that one day we shall be called one day upon to answer for thought, words and actions. We pray O lord.
- 5. For the sick and suffering, that Jesus Christ who showed great mercy to the inform and the trouble may show them his bounteous mercy, bestow upon them every heavenly blessings and restore to them lasting health of mind and body. We pray O Lord.
- 6. For all who have passed from this life, that our Lord Jesus Christ to whom it belongs to grant mercy, may spare and remit their sins and welcome them into his Kingdom of peace and glory we pray O Lord

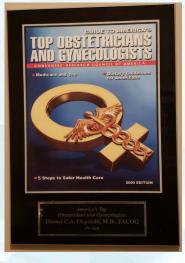


Top OBS and Gynecologist



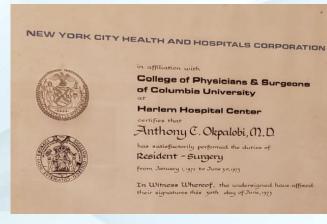






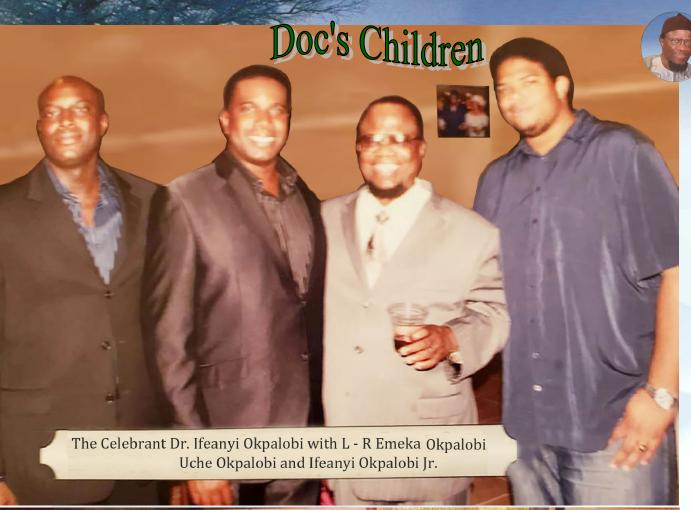














### Tribute to My Beloved Husband and Friend





My best friend, my Husband, my rock, my King and my Hero! Where will I start my life without you? I thank God for bringing you into my life. Our union was filled with happiness, and joy and was also adventurous. We travelled the world and met lots of people along the way and I had the opportunity to witness the boundless nature of your generosity. We accepted each other for who we are, and we were a good team. You always listened to me and gave me your honest opinion.

I dreaded this day. This is a day I had always wished should never come. It is still like a dream, a bad dream that I need to wake up from. Ifeanyi my Love, I cannot come to terms with the fact that you are no more. It is as unbelievable as it is unacceptable.

My love, you are one in a million and a million rolled into one. Not many like you are born to every generation. You have given me in these many years we were married, what imagination cannot picture. You are a quintessential gentleman, a perfect gentleman, a hardworking gentleman, an honest gentleman, and a man filled with milk of human kindness. You have always been there for me and our children and families. You are a big tree giving shade and shelter to people from far and near. You mean everything to me, but your demise has thrown me into a terrible confusion and despair. Where shall my consolation come from? I am fulfilled knowing that you are not dead, but you are sleeping in the bosom of the Lord. You lived an exemplary life, a life of service to God and humanity, a life that positively impacted all that came in contact with you, a life worth emulating, a life of sacrifice, and a life that sought to make life worth living for others. You were God fearing and humane. Your achievements and uncommon accomplishments speak for you. Ifeanyi my Love, I promise you that God being my helper, I will strive to accomplish our dreams, despite the

(Continued on page 18)



#### (Continued from page 17)

#### daunting challenges of life.



Even though it is extremely difficult to say goodbye, but as you peacefully embark on this journey to God's nearer presence, the children and I will forever love and cherish your memory. I shall always treasure the moments we shared together as I look forward to reuniting with you on the resurrection day.

Sleep on my Love, sleep on, take your deserved rest. You shall always live in my heart.

May our Lord and savior Jesus Christ grant your gentle soul eternal rest and peace in the bosom of the Lord, Amen.

Adieu Ifeanyi my husband, Goodbye my Love.

Your wife,

Rose Obiageli Okpalobi (Oby)





















### TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER

My father has left a brand on my soul as well as the souls of my children, a brand of tradition, a brand of excellence, a brand of pride.



There is no way to sum up my father's life on this earth in a decade, but he was magical! Ever since my first memory of my dad he was larger than life, not only to me but everyone around him. He had a way of making everyone feel very important. Many successful people have mentors, role models, and life coaches; I was lucky enough to be raised by mine. My dad was my best friend and my biggest supporter. With him by my side, there was nothing I could not do. My dad encouraged me to do whatever I set my mind to do, and when your father is your financial advisor there are many things to be done.

My dad showed me what it was to be a father as well as a provider and has passed that legacy down to me and my children. My father has left a brand on my soul as well as the souls of my children, a brand of tradition, a brand of excellence, a brand of pride. My father is gone in the flesh but I feel him everywhere. I feel him when I am awake, I feel him when I'm driving, I feel him when I'm working, I mostly feel him though when I'm praying. My father has left an eternal flame inside of me that only God himself can come from heaven to extinguish, so to my father, my friend, my chief, my king may you continue to Rest In Peace myself and Emeka and Ify will carry on your legacy here with pride and dignity. With all of the love a son can give. I leave you with the last words you left me with: I LOVE YOU.

Uche N. Okpalobi













Tribute to my Dear Father

### Poem To Our Father

If I only had five minutes
the day you passed away,
I would have had time to tell you
all the things I needed to say.

I never got to tell you how much you mean to me Or that you were the best dad, better than any man could be.

The last time I talked to you, I wish I would have known. I would have said I love you and kept you on the phone.

If I only had five minutes
the morning you passed away,
I'd give you one last hug so tight
and see your great big smile.
I'd tell you that I don't think I could live without you,
not even for awhile.
I'd kiss your cheek and take your hand
and tell you it's okay to go
And tell you that I'll miss you
more than you'll ever know.

But you were gone so quickly.
One last car ride you'd take.
Before you even knew it,
you were standing at heaven's gate.
Now God has called upon you.
It's time to get your wings,
To leave this life behind you,
And enjoy all of heaven's beautiful things.
So wait for me in heaven, Dad.
Don't let me come alone.
The day the angels come for me,
Please be there to bring me home.







As an adolescent, one ambition was to become an entrepreneur. Before I could spell the word or properly pronounce entrepreneur the definition resonated in my soul: A person who organizes, operates, and assumes the risk for a business venture. I studied my father growing up. I looked at key actions that made him successful. My father was a man of consistency. His steps fell in rhythm, purposeful knowing the daily task at hand. He continuously displayed resilience no matter the obstacle.

My father grew up in Nigeria. The village where our family is from is located in Achalla-lbusa

in the Delta State of Nigeria. The humble village instills true life qualities. Respect for the people in your community and an obligation to take responsibility for those around you are two of many lessons taught within our village.

As a child, my father lost both of his parents. Through resilience and an undying will, he was able to become a Doctor of Medicine (MD) and moved the majority of his immediate family to America. He could have easily said that this task is too great. He could have second guessed himself and decided to look for an easy way out. Over thirty years, my father has provided scholarships to 25+ individuals. Through the actions he displayed, I learned that there is no excuse for failure. Success is based on belief, the *grace* of God, and one's own personal effort. The word "can't" is not in a man's vocabulary.

This is the man that was held by the hand of his older brother Unna and went from primary school to primary school to ensure that he gained his education in spite of losing both of his parents at an early age.

This is the man that knocked on every door of foreign consulates to gain recommendation for college education and turned down by all, but to gain recommendation after the German consulate remembered him from a cricket game. This is the man that studied in Cairo and was harassed in the streets. This is the man that traveled to Denmark, Germany and finally to the US in pursuit of his endeavors. The man that laid in bed at night while my mother was pregnant with Uche, and work on his sutures for hours before going to bed. This is the man that at one time owned a night club, home health agency, two group homes for the cognitively disabled, a pharmacy, import/export company, a full time physician with privileges in three hospitals, and a major political influencer in Nigerian politics. ALL AT THE SAME TIME!

I have longed for my father's praise but have not heard a word. I sat quiet to be sure to hear it, although it may sound absurd.

I sat in silence and I feel his spirit all around me, telling me, "My pride is in you fighting the good fight, and being humble in victory."

Thank you.













I would like to thank everyone who has come to honor my father. Since my father has passed, I have received so many calls from people expressing their condolences. The sheer number of calls and messages really just confirms what I already knew: My father was a great man, a man who has helped many and who garnered the respect of all the people that he came in contact with. So many people have called me and told their stories about how they knew my father and how he changed their lives for the better; they told me wonderful stories about how he helped them in their times of need and helped them grow. I would like everyone to know that I am grateful for these memories; I am proud that he was such an important person to so many people, and I am so happy that so many other people know just how great he was.

I would also like to share my fondest memory of my dad with everyone. This is something dear to me that most

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people do not know. When I was nine years old, my parents would take me to work with them and give me different tasks throughout the day to stay busy. One day, he and my mother had a late meeting they had to go to;one of his employees, Ms. Dodd, offered to take me to her house to watch me for a little while until the meeting was over, and then she would bring me home. Shortly after I arrived at Ms. Dodd's house, she told me about an old Blue Cadillac that she had, and she told me that she taught her children to drive when they were my age and asked me if I wanted to drive her car. Of course as a nine year old there was absolutely no way I would turn her down. So, we did it; we went for the drive, and I had the time of my life.

When I got home I was a worried because I knew that I was not supposed to drive at such a young age. The first thing I did when I got home was greet to my dad. He immediately asked me how my day was and then asked what I did while I was at Ms. Dodd's house. I very nervously told him that while I was there she taught me how to drive. His response seemed to be one of intrigue and excitement. His words to me were, "Really? Let me see." From there, we went to his car, and he let me drive around the neighborhood. He was impressed at how well I was doing, and from then on he would let me drive us to church every Sunday and he would even occasionally allow me to drive him to the hospital to see patients on Saturdays. This unexpected response from my father grew a passion in me for cars for years to come, and I am so glad that my favorite hobby is so directly tied back to my father.

Without my father's guidance, there is no way I would be the man I am today, and for that I am so very grateful. I look forward to raising my child with the values he instilled in me.

Ifeanyi Okpalobi





EXIT OF AN ICON

# Onwa was a good man









Onwa was a good man

Onwa was a good man. He was always advising, correcting and accepting. He was compassionate. He was funny. He was optimistic. He was hardworking. He was committed to his family. He believed in God would always provide his encourand wasn't afraid to show it. He didn't take no for answer. There always

had to be a compromise. He liked to talk things through to understand you and the situation. If you were having a pity party for yourself, he wouldn't allow you to. He would tell



you to get those negative emotions out of your heart and remember who you are and whose you are. He agement. He knew how to have fun

and be the life of the party by trying to include everyone there. Heaven has gained a new angel. Even though he is no longer in the world, I am overjoyed that he was a good and faithful servant and entered God's glory. We will miss you dearly. May your soul rest in peace.



From your Stepsons - Justin, Stanley and Uchenna Tabugbo

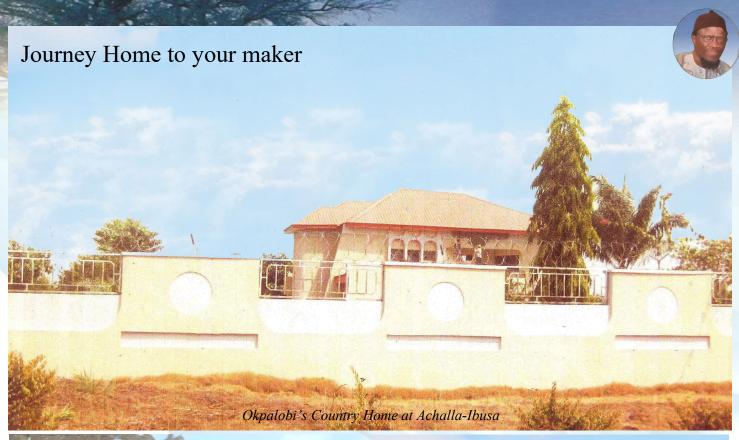




























## Grandkids tribute







Wed, Dec 19, 2018 7:19 am

**Michaela** - Grandpa is always in my heart, and he will forever be missed. I will always remember the wonderful parties he let us have at his house, the amazing restaurants he would take us to, and the helpful advice he gave me so I will succeed and grow up to be a person with the spirit like his. I remember when I was little he would always take me to the zoo and the aquarium, and teach about all the animals. When I was upset he would pick me up and bounce me on his lap and sing songs to me. He always knew how to cheer me up and make me feel better and although he is not here walking on this earth as of today, his spirit will always be with me and guide me through the journey I have ahead of me. Rest well Grandpa and may your spirit live on forever.

**Sahara** - My grandpa was the most nice and loving person in the world. He was strict but still loving. He always cared for us even if he was not feeling good. He always congratulated us for our accomplishments, even when we where not doing so well in something he encouraged us. He was always happy to see us anytime he got, and he cherished those moments. I have come to an understanding that he was suffering, but now he is at peace and rest. I didn't get to say good bye so now I want to say good bye and I love you with all my heart.

**Hannah** - My grandpa pushed me to do my best in track and in school. I tried so hard to do well because of him and I will try even harder to do my best in honor of him. I will always remember going to visit with him at his house. I would give him a kiss on the cheek and tell him I love him. My grandpa was sick for a very long time, and he was suffering. But he believed that God would help him, and he did because he's not suffering anymore. My grandpa will always have a place in my heart.

**Blaire** - My grandfather was the best. He pushed us to make us work hard at track. He told us, "Don't come back without a medal." He encouraged us to work for what we want and you will earn it. Having a sickness is hard but he pushed through all of it. Him passing away is heartbreaking but he will always be in my heart. I love you grandpa. Until I see you again, farewell for now. Love, Blaire

Sent From The Desk of Uche N. Okpalobi

































# A time for vacation









### **Political Activities**



Dr. Ifeanyi Okpalobi with President Bill Clinton







To the wife, children and family of Dr. I.C. Okpalobi

November 20, 2018

Dr. Okpalobi started out as a client of my law firm, and ended up as one of the closest friends my family and I had. I was proud to represent him as a client, for he always sought innovative ways to address the needs of the patients of his medical practice, getting them all the support the state and federal laws could provide. He earned a reputation as a skilled and respected medical professional in our state, serving his patients selflessly.

Dr. Okpalobi was an early supporter of my political life, supporting me financially and through bringing me support throughout the community of Africans living in the New Orleans area. In large part, he is responsible, through his leadership of the African Chamber of Commerce, for bringing the talents of the African community to the attention of the larger New Orleans community. He fought hard for the inclusion of this African community in every aspect of the city—from educational institutions to business and government—and he became the man who policy makers went to in order to understand the needs of his local community and of international African interests. As an example, he urged me to create the Louisiana/Nigerian Agriculture Commission, from which support was organized from the State of Louisiana to exchange expertise through the LSU and Southern University schools of Agriculture, to plan farming projects, indigenous crop production and farm management in Nigeria.

Dr. Okpalobi also led a number of delegations of public officials to Nigeria to understand and address its needs, and also to have them understand the strengths of Nigeria that could be helpful to the United States. My wife and I were proud to participate in the ceremony when he and Rose were married. We shared visits at

each other's family events, such as holiday and our children's wedding gatherings, in their homes and ours. In this, we enjoyed a long and warm friendship, filled with love and mutual respect. He was a decent and caring man and all who had a chance to share with him benefitted greatly, as did our family.

We offer our sincerest condolences to Rose, to Dr. Okpalobi's children, his grandchildren and to the rest of his family. May he rest in eternal peace and may his legacy of service and caring for others live on forever. Your friends,

William and Andrea Jefferson





#### A TRIBUTE TO DR. LCA OKPALAOBI

I met Dr. Okpalaobi a few years ago through a friend Alex during one of my visits to the U.S.A. Since that first meeting, we have maintained close relationship until few days ago when I heard of his untimely death.

Dr. Okpalaobi was a very likeable, descent gentleman that every good person will be delighted to be associated with. He was kind, friendly and of descent disposition. He was a man of sound knowledge in almost every subject. His death is a big loss to his family, friends and his community.

May his soul rest in the lord. Amen.

DM Jemibewon CFR,mni

15<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.

# Tribute To A Man I Met On The Day When I Came Into This World, My Beloved Brother, DR. IFEANYICHUKWU CHARLES ANTHONY OKPALOBI, M.D.



The mighty "Iroko Tree" has fallen. My wife and I saw you gradually departing this world and raising your hand to us on that gruesome Wednesday, November 14<sup>th,</sup> 2018, late in the night on your sick bed at the Touro Infirmary Hospital in New Orleans Louisiana, but we did not know that it was the last goodbye hand wave.

In the early morning hours of Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, your wife Rose, your son Uche, your stepson Uchenna and I saw you depart this world after a very painful decision. That will always be a period in my life that I will never forget. Your passing from this earth to our Lord's house was painful to us.

Brother, you fought a good fight but our Almighty God wanted you more than we, your family, friends and well wishes did. You have always been a brother, mentor, adviser, father, friend to me and also a go-getter in all your life's endeavors.

I am compelled at this time to do this task. I do know that in life, there is time for everything, a time to be born, a time to grow, blossom and a time to die, a time to plant, a time to pluck that which had been planted (Eccl 3:2), what can we say and what can I do only to accept the world as it has been destined to be the Glory of God. You were an exemplary husband, brother, father, brother-in-law, uncle, step-father, grandfather, great-grandfather, a workaholic, a dogged fighter, a man with a large heart, a very humorous and loving man.

You showed us the virtue of hard work, persistence, perseverance and above all obedience to the work of God. People's problems were your problems. You gave out jobs to the jobless. You helped people who needed help. You gave opportunities to those seeking for one. You counseled those who needed one. I will miss all about your person, for you were a great man.

Where do I start from? This has been one of the hardest things I have ever had to do, as it is something I would never imagined I would need to do so soon, I dreaded this. It was barely three (3) months ago in Baton Rouge, LA at the surprised birthday dinner that my lovely wife and beautiful children gave to me for my birthday celebration. You, your wife Rose, stepson Uchenna, my brother Steve and your guest from Nigeria were in attendance.

During your congratulatory speech to me, you were indirectly handing over the families' leadership torch to me, which I told you that you still have a long life to live with us. Never did I know that you would leave us so soon.

Nothing that I write would ever be good enough to thank you for everything you have done for me and the entire Okpalobi family and who you were to us. I want those reading this in the present and in the future, to get an understanding of the impact this man called Ifeanyichukwu Charles Anthony Okpalobi had on the Okpalobi family. All you asked for was for everyone to work hard and fulfill their ambitions.

After the death of your parents in Achalla, Ibusa, Delta State of Nigeria, your oldest brother Chief Sylvester Adigwe Chukwudi Okpalobi and his wife, Mrs. Veronica C. Okpalobi (May their Souls Rest In Perfect Peace), took you and your immediate older brother William Okpalobi and your other relatives to live with them in Enugu, the then Eastern Nigeria, where you started your educational journey.

You were very athletic during your younger days, as a goal keeper at the Government College, Owerri in Nigeria and also a partial tennis player, because I never allowed you to defeat me at the tennis court in Nashville, Tennessee. You have always been a very strong pillar in the family. I remembered very vividly in 1970, after the end of the Biafran/

Chief Chuka Okpalobi Ochendo

Okpalobi's Extended family

(Continued on page 38)







(Continued from page 37)

Nigerian War, even though I was very young then, you quickly came back to Nigeria from United Sates of America looking and searching for every one of us, the entire Okpalobi family, because we were all scattered around the former Eastern Region of Nigeria. When you found us, you were so excited and relieved. In 1973, three years after the war ended, I joined you in Dayton, Ohio to further my academic pursuit. What a memorable journey from Achalla, Ibusa, Nigeria to Government College in Oweri, Nigeria to University of Egypt, Cairo to New York, to Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton, Ohio to Meharri Medical School in Nashville, Tennessee and then finally to Gentilly Medical Clinic(Private Medical Practice) in New Orleans, Louisiana. That was a long journey to the rich and famous. Also you were a well accomplished business tycoon, Philanthropist and a devoted Roman Catholic.

You lived your life, your own way and now you are with our Heavenly Father. We have solace in the fact that he used you to bless the lives of those you met. We will forever cherish every single memory of you. I am proud to call you my brother, honored and privileged to be from the same family as you. Your life history and all that has happened in your life were surely ordained by God and am sure you are there in God's presence.

You will be deeply missed by the entire Okpalobi family both at home and abroad. You had health challenges for years and finally bowed to death at Touro Infirmary Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana.

You came, you saw and you conquered all. On behalf of the family we say "Dialu, Kachifo and until we meet again".

Chief & Chief (Mrs.) Chuka Okpalobi and family!





#### WHAT A LOSS!

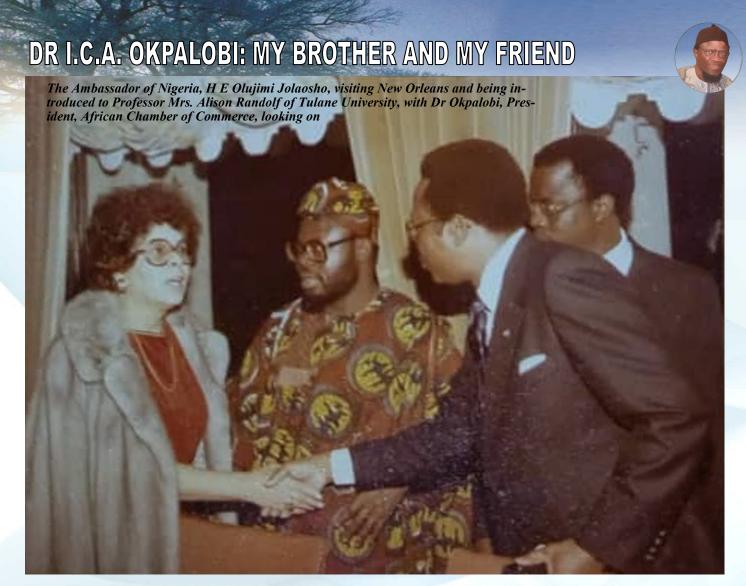
An icon, a mentor, and loving brother is gone, but not forgotten. Our heavenly Father called him home on November 15, 2018 and he answered his call. Dear brother, thank you so much for your kindness and may the Almighty God bless your soul. You will be truly missed and your spirit will continue to live forever. Amen

Sonny Okpalobi



L –R Sonny and Mrs. Okpalobi, Dr. Ifeanyi and Mrs. Obiagheli Okpalobi





#### DR I.C.A OKPALOBI: MY BROTHER AND MY FRIEND

Dr. Ifeanyi Okpalobi came into my life to help me become great. I will explain. After my undergraduate studies at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, USA, I decided to move down to New Orleans, Louisiana to do Graduate Studies in Political Science at Tulane University, in New Orleans in 1978. Then I became the President of the Nigerian Community in town. One evening, I had a visitor in person of Dr. Okpalobi. He said he was new in town and wanted to identify with fellow Nigerians and he was directed to me.

He took off fraternizing with every Nigerian around and in no time, he became the "father" of the Nigerian Community. He had the wherewithal to be great and we all gained from him. Our Nigerian parties were in his residence. All our activities were done *chez lui*, swimming, dancing, celebrating October 1<sup>st</sup> every year etc. Dr. Okpalaobi was our leader in deed.

As we worked together for the good of all, we discovered that both of us schooled at Government Secondary School, Owerri!! We became more involved in each other's life. Dr. Okpalobi became my brother, and helped me the more. Then I decided to return to Nigeria in 1981 and we kept in touch.

Back home, I was appointed a Special Adviser to His Excellency, Governor Jim Ifeanyichukwu Nwobodo of

(Continued on page 40)



Anambra State, in 1981. Dr. Okplaobi was my "Special Adviser and Helper" on the job. He followed my progress and when the military wanted to return power to the civilians he encouraged me to run for the governorship. He sponsored me to a great extent but I missed the office very narrowly.

Dr. Ifeanyi Okpalobi was there for me when it counted. I have been a junior partner in our business! Ifeanyi did a lot that was good and great for me. My regret is that I did not do much for him. I treasured our relationship and I thank God for his kindness and love to us both.

Dr. Ifeanyi Okplaobi was a great and hardworking medical professional. He helped a lot of people in his field. He was a very kind human being. He sponsored several Nigerian students and offered employment to hundreds of them. I pray to our Almighty Father in heaven to console his darling wife, Rose, his children, Uche, Emeka, and Ifeanyi.Ifeanyi was a great OGSSIAN and always remembered where he came from. May his great soul rest in perfect peace, Amen.

Ozo Chief The Hon. Dr. Aneze Chinwuba. Ozo Okpala, Mgbologwu Awka, OTUTU Awka, The Traditional Prime Minister of Awka Ancient Kingdom.

Dr. Okpalobi, ONP Leader, hosting His Excellency Ambassador Jolaosho in New Orleans. Dr. I.C.A. Okpalobi, the Leader at an Organization of Nigerian Professionals (ONP) meeting with Gubernatorial Candidate, Dr Aneze Chinwuba of Anambra State













Dr. Okpalobi with Chief Emeka Anyaoku, former Commonwealth Secretary-General



### High Chief Nze Arc Gibson Chigbu, KSC Akaraka Nkwerre Lord Ambassador of Nkwerre Ancient Kingdom

January 2, 2019

#### TRIBUTE TO MY FRIEND, OUR OGA, MENTOR AND COMMUNITY LEADER

To: Mrs. Rose Oby Okpalobi Mr. Uche Okpalobi and all Okpalobis:

As someone who loves to talk and write, it has taken me a while to decide on what to say and I still do not know if it will be enough and right. My interaction with Dr. ICA Okpalobi started when I was a student in college and continued upon my relocation to New Orleans as a young Architect. It was a special love expressed at first sight. It was not just signaled but verbally expressed. Dr. Okpalobi loved everything of beauty from great things happening to fellow human beings to heights to be achieved; Dr. Okpalobi was very excited when I got married and introduced my wife to him, he was so appreciative and said, I wish I was lucky like you. He was ready to finance and assist anyone to attain higher limits. He was very impatient with low thinking and mediocrity. He just did not like hearing the word can't.

His impatience with low thinking and his quest for excellence at all times were ever present. He was quick to interrupt my young uncle at my wedding when he felt the guy was not doing justice to my societal accomplishments, took over the microphone and completed the toast. He loved organizations and believed that we could organize ourselves as a group and participate in the evolving Nigerian democracy to truly make a difference. His love for that involvement led to quite a few political battles between him and so many but he always knew the truth and his main goal was to move quickly and get the job done. When I informed him of my Senatorial ambition in 2014, he quickly gave his blessings and promised to be by my side when and if needed. He even reminded me he had asked me to go and run for Governor years earlier. Well, Doc. I did not become a Senator yet but I have kept my promise to get involved and make a difference in any which way possible.

Doc's house was citadel of accomplished men/women and beggars who wanted to secure loans using others to gain entry. He listened to them but knew the difference between real person and chaff and would quietly let the community know of the chaff in his own way. He kept making his point from making my youngest son the ring bearer in his recent marriage to he and his lovely wife Oby asking my wife to assist in every way possible during their fantastic wedding for which my family say thanks. He was human and made amends before he took ill and we hereby pray for complete acceptance by his maker so he can continue to sleep well. God will give you all the strength to bear his physical absence in your lives but will enrich you with never before found energy to move on, sustain, achieve in greater heights and remain faithful to God.

Oby and I here with open arms and hearts for you all.

High Chief Nze Gibson C. Chigbu, KSC Akaraka, Lord Ambassador of Nkwerre Ancient Kingdom

Akaraka's Ponderosa, Umunyem Village, Nkwerre, Nkwerre LGA, Imo State, Nigeria Plot 32, Area E, New Owerri, Owerri Imo State, Nigeria New Orleans +Houston, USA 08163202774, 08184593488, 504-621-3342, 832-651-1441 gibsoncee@aol.com





ST MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH, IBUSA.

P.O. BOX 414, DELTA STATE, NIGERIA.

MOTTO: LOVE, DON'T HATE!

Our Ref.

am 5th JAN 2019

#### CONDOLENCE

Your death is a colossal loss to the Catholic Community and to the world at large.

On behalf of the entire parishioners of St. Monica's Parish, Ibusa, we bid farewell to a man who have contributed to history in the sand of time.

We pay tribute to a philanthropist, a care giver, a builder and to one who have contributed to the growth of humanity.

Adieu to our friend and brother!!!

Farewell and rest in peace.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Okoli

Parish Priest

Sir. (Barr) J.N. Nwanze

Vice Chairman PPC

Mr. S.N. Offor Secretary PPC



#### INTERNATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. JUDE

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church



January 7th, 2019

#### Re: In Memory to Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi, MD.

Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi is very much missed by our church family here at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in New Orleans. He was a very active member. Dr.Okpalobi would attend Mass daily at noon. He led the church members in praying the Rosary. He was very much involved in our community.

In his own humble way, Dr. Okpalobi would talk about his younger years and how learning from his life experiences. They were both good and not so good but all made him a better person. Faith in our loving and merciful God was central to him. He was also one of our Eucharistic Ministers and was always giving a warm welcome and big smile to all around him. He has a wonderful family and was well respected by all in New Orleans. His funeral Mass was one of the biggest. This spoke loudly of how much he was loved and respected in the community. We miss him but know that he is now enjoying the reward of a generous and faith-filled life in Heaven.

May he rest in God's eternal peace.

Rev. Fr. Tony Rigoli, OMI (Parish Priest) and Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Mulenga, OMI







Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi, M.D Sunrise: November 1, 1942 Sunset: November 15, 2018



#### **OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE**

411 N. Rampart St., New Orleans, LA 70112 • Phone 525-1551 • Fax (504) 525-1827

## **EULOGY TO A RARE JEM AND A HERO!**

Okwuonyechinne Sir, Most people call you Doc. But, I started calling you Okwuonyechinne from the day I heard and learned the meaning of it. Your words are full of wisdom and I miss that everyday. Okwuichinne, I still can't believe that I am writing a tribute because of your demise. But, my consolation comes from the God Almighty who is the author and the finisher, the beginning and the end. Hebrew 10:35 and Ephesians 2:8-9 are also part of my consolation.

The people of New Orleans especially the Nigerian community in the U.S.A are testifying how you touched their individual lives in different ways. Not only the Nigerians, I personally met many Americans that know you in one way or the other. They always have testimonies to tell me about how you positively influenced their lives for good. One (Christina said that I must tell you that she is now a charge nurse in a hospital and that she started the journey because you believed in her and always encouraged her to go to school when she was working for you as medical assistant. I quote" Doc will be very proud of me."

Ockuonyechinne, you charmed your way into the hearts of everyone you met both young and old with a smile and a kind word. No one need to be around you very long to know that you love people, love your countries, love the truth, and love God.

Many people have testified to your kindness, generosity, values, love, and wisdom. This is really consoling and fulfilling to our sorrowful hearts. You always value hard work and encourage us to achieve our ultimate goals because you have been there done that and know the pros and cons if not achieved. I believe that your legacy remains because the seeds that you planted are still growing and many are still bearing good fruits.

May your gentle soul rest in peace. Adieu Okwuonyechinne! Adieu Okwuonyechinne!!

Stella Nwafor

#### Tribute to a wonderful brother!

The news of your sudden death came as a rude shock. I never imagined that our conversation in August 2018, after Diokopa George Oduah's death would be the last. You indeed touched so many lives while on earth and your heart of gold was second to none. The church you built in Achalla, Ibusa is a raw proof of your love for God. You cared for, loved and helped your own people whenever they called and you also wiped tears away from many faces. I thought I might visit you again, but this is never to happen. You will be sorely missed by all of us. Rest in the bosom of the Lord until we meet at the feet of Jesus.

From your sister, Faith Ngozi Aliu and family. Lagos, Nigeria.

#### Tribute to A Good man

Dr. Ifeanyi Okpalobi was a good and accomplished man. I met him once in the early nineties when he visited my office, and that one meeting made an impression on me. Being young and impressionable, I was overwhelmed by his mannerism and accomplishments. He was humble and compassionate; I didn't even know all he was at that meeting till he left, and my boss asked me if I had known him before. My boss was surprised to learn that I didn't know nor ever met him till that day. That's a testament to the person Dr. Okpalobi was. I was used to seeing people who had some accolades or "money" being obnoxious or even unapproachable at best, not Dr. Ifeanyi Okpalobi. He related to me at my level and rendered a remarkable advice still indelible in my heart. He will be missed, and the society at large will miss his intellectualism and philanthropy. He will be honored in spirit because he left a legacy that will stand the test of time.

May his gentle soul rest peacefully in the bosom of the Almighty God. I pray God to grant his beloved wife and children the strength of heart to bear his loss.

"AdaEze" Dr. Ezinma Onuigbo.



### TRIBUTE TO DR. IFEANYI C. OKPALOBI

Dr Ifeanyi Okpalobi was a rare Nigerian that can be described as a man filled with goodness.

It was in New Orleans while I was on official assignment from Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) that I met him. We were in a reception when someone said to me "that there is a Nigerian doctor here in New Orleans, who is a specialist Obstetrics and Gynecologist, who is a great umbrella, to many Nigerians in New Orleans, and would want me to meet him" In addition, he said that he had a burning interest to go into the Oil and Gas business and that I could be of great help to him.

I obliged my details, together with my hotel to him. The next day in the evening, I got a call from the reception that I had a visitor called Dr. Ifeanyi C. Okpalobi. It was so pleasant meeting him. We discussed at length on various interest and finally ended up in a dinner. It was as if, we had known each other long ago. When dinner was over, we drove straight to his home and continued discussing till very late that I returned to my hotel. He made my two months stay in New Orleans on that trip very memorable. We were mostly together in the evenings in his home, my hotel and sometimes, we went together to his Practice.

From then on, we became very close friends. We exchanged various visits in Lagos, Nigeria and in New Orleans, USA. We remained in communication.

The great Dr Ifeanyi Charles Okpalobi, had an impactful career. A great Obstetrics and gynecologist. A discerning mind, understanding people and his environment and responding appropriately. A man who valued friends and opened his home freely to people. He was always excited each time we saw each other or spoke on phone. He was surely a very good man. Extremely accommodating and generous

I say Adieu to a great man and pray that Almighty God will accept his soul in his bosom to rest in peace forever. Amen.

We will surely miss him.

Dr. G. U. Billy Agha and Family

#### A TRIBUTE TO MY DEAR BROTHER (DR. L.C.A. OKPALOBI)

Brother, like a "blue from the bloat" it comes as a shock. I assumed it was a dream at first but behold it is a reality. My eyes are heavy and my heart is cold, as I finally realize you are no more. I am heartbroken and part of me will forever be missing. There will never be enough words to thank you for everything you have done for me and our family. You gave us all you can and I am proud to call you, my brother.

You are a man who never gave up on God. I have to acknowledge the fact that you lived a life worthy of emulation. I take a solace in God whom I know you are resting in his bosom. Sleep well; we shall meet on the resurrection morning. I love you but God loves you most.

Adieu a humble man

Your dear sister,

Mrs. Tina Anwuli Monyei & family!



Dr I. C.A. Okpalobi

Thanks for allowing my family and I into your life.

Your Big Heart knew no bounds, no color and no ethnic group.

You will be deeply missed.

Rest in peace until we meet to part no more!

Martins I. Imudia, PhD Attorney at Law Tampa, Florida







Ibusa Association U.S.A. Inc A Non-Profit Organization 4382 Utah St. #10 San Diego, CA 92104 Official Website: www.ibusausa.com "Odim Nma Ibuzor Aka Anyi Ka Odi"

January 16, 2019 Dear Mrs. Rose Okpalobi and Family,

I was sorry to learn of the passing of Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi, M.D. I want to express our sincere condolences to you all on behalf of Ibusa Association U.S.A. Inc. It was with a great sense of loss when we received the news of his passing and we wanted you to know that our hearts are saddened and that you and your family have our deepest sympathy. Your husband was a remarkable man and contributed greatly to this organization.

If there is anything that we can do to help you during this difficult time, please do not hesitate to call upon us. I hope and pray that time and beautiful memories will help to lessen the burden of your sorrow, and that you and the family will draw some measure of comfort knowing that we care and share in your loss. I can personally be reached at (619)278-8405.

Sincerely, Mr. John Agoh National President Ibusa Association U.S.A. Inc.

Mr. John Agoh President

Mrs. Ogugua Odume Vice-President

Mrs. Christabel Nwankwo Secretary

Mr. John Monu Financial Secretary Mr. Nnamdi Anyakpor Rev. Gladys Obidi Treasurer

PRO





#### PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NIGERIA



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NATIONAL CHAPTER (PDP-USA)

POWER TO THE PEOPLE Motto: Justice, Unity and Progress

#### WWW.PDPNIGERIAUSA.ORG

December 5th, 2018

Mrs. Rose Oby Okpalobi,

I just had to let you know how deeply saddened I am to hear of your husband's passing. Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi was a very special person and we had become very close friends, as I'm sure you know.

I truly believe that he was a gift from God that came into my life at exactly the time I needed to be involve in Nigeria activities in USA. He changed my life completely and I owe everything I am today to the positive influence he had on my life.

The Bible says that "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." I pray that God will bless all of us and give us the strength to carry on without him.

I will say a special prayer each day in his memory in thanks for having had the opportunity to know him and count him among my closest friends. I will pray also for you and your family that you have the strength to carry on.

God Bless You and thank you for sharing your noble husband with me and many other Nigerians.

I feel truly blessed. On behalf of PDP family, Doc Okpalobi, REST IN PEACE.

In Faith & Sympathy,



Dr. Harold Onyedikachukwu Molokwu Chairman

PDP-USA Chapter









# The Legend I Know: Dr. I.C.A. Okpalobi, MD

To me, the greatest gift one can derive is to write a tribute about a family member as I dedicate this tribute to the legend I know. The legend I know was an

important person who is known in the community and beyond for doing something extremely well and having the special qualities and abilities to carry out such capabilities. Therefore, remembering a legend, one must sophistically assess and evaluate the premises of why that person is called a legend. My twentyone years in New Orleans has given me the opportunity of evaluating the construct above. I may be overly stating the evidence of my hypothesis, but the truth of the matter is Dr. I.C.A. Okpalobi, MD is a legend. He takes fundamental things very seriously because he would like to know why you said what you say or why you did what you did, and what would have been the right

way to make it right. We as human tends to take basic things for granted but not the legend I know Dr. I.C.A. Okpalobi, MD.

Given the gamut of my assessment, my experiences, and evidence garnered over the years in respect of Dr. Okpalobi. I see the late legend as an instinctual man of inclusiveness, a pillar of togetherness and a leader who gives without getting back. I know him as a man who calls it what it is, a man with the ability to code and decode, a man who appreciate aesthetics, and a man of great inspiration. He was a man who has made differences in many people's lives by touching them as he saw fit.

Dr. Okpaloi is a family, examplary, brilliant black Nigerian man who regardless of your age, gender, color, race, ethnic composi-



tion, creed, sexual orientation, religion, and or political aspiration welcomes you. He is the Santa of New Orleans. He was an icon and the founder among others the association of Nigerians in New Orleans (ANNO) for which I am proud to follow his imagination, aims, and objectives as the new president.

Without a doubt, Dr. Okpalobi attained the highest pedigree of education as a medical doctor who does not only specialize in bringing to life another life but cares about the health of others while his family is utmost in his heart. He has proven time and time his capabilities and competence in all ram-

ification of life. His educational prowess and strenght is sine qua non.

As a man who appreciates aesthetics, his soft, gentle smiles, touches,

and indispensable kisses brought his beautiful Queen from a far far away land to NOLA-"Oby" will attest to that fact. With all the oration accorded him during the viewing/mass servcies on December 8th, 2018, you will unquestionably understand that Dr. Okpalobi was a man of purpose, process, and practical with no intellectual rivalry. The legend I know was vast in the horizon of his thinking, doings, acting, and believing thus turning his medical specialization to leaders of different aspiration. He was a generous man that extended his generousity to others without fear or favor

It is certain that when heaven broke open for Dr, Okpalobi on November 15, 2018, his friends including M. Jackson, R. Lawson, A. Franklin, and S. O. Osadebe among others welcomed him with one of his favorite highlife song "Osondi Owendi." while my father, mother, and others dance to the lyrical tone of that music. He lived a life of inclusiveness, respect, and forgiveness. There are just so much to say about Dr. Okpalobi which made him a legend. Without missing words, Dr. Okpalobi's generously extended his gratitude to my newly formed soccer team the New Orleans Breeze Soccer Club in 1999. He purchased the team new jerseys

(Continued on page 49)



(Continued from page 48)

and other equipment that made the team looks colorful and competitive although some of us were having pot bellies. We became the best certain that today January 19th, in the Spanish (Islano) soccer league and won several competitions. Thanks to the legend!!!! Although Dr. Okpalobi is resting in on his behalf. peace, his legacy lingers and echoes the good will he espouses while his children received the baton he passed to them. To his children, Uche, Emeka, and Ifeanyi Jr. weep no more for the good things that your father did linger: Also, remember that you have shared your father with the community so shall the community remains steadfast. To his beloved wife, you might think he is not physically here by you but remember his spirit lingers and will console you eve- Dr. Earnest Airhia ry day of your life. For his brothers, sisters, and other wishers, our

goal should be to support the rest of the young ones and keep his pledge of togetherness tight. My promise to the legend is to make 2019 we will celebrate his life with one of his special song Osondi Owendi will be played and danced

I, therefore, surmise my tribute to the family with this Bill Keane's quote, "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present." As Dr. Okpalobi journey back home to Achalla- Ibusa in Nigeria, we bid him a powerful and final farewell; we will always remember him as he was a legend that I know. May his soul rest in peace Peace.





## Tribute to Dr. I. C. A Okpalaobi

It is with a heavy heart that I pen down these painful words of tribute to a dear friend, uncle and benefactor, Dr. I. C. A Okpalaobi. Your passing into the world beyond, I must say, may be a loss to mankind, but a gain to the abyss of the outer world where the living dare not attempt to comprehend. If their gain because your good deeds while on earth with the living would be replicated there in the outer world. If not that man is selfish, particularly my goodself, when I consider your good deeds upon



my life, my rise to fame in Nigeria, I Will keep mourning your demise, but I shall be considerate and mourn no more. Let the outer world beyond have a thirst of your benevolence while on earth that you just departed. Adieu! Adieu! Adieu, my beloved friend, uncle and benefactor.

I am yours sincerely, Rt. Hon. Dr. Barr. Olisa Enebeli Imegwu.





## Your Memory Will Never Fade

Dear Brother-In-Law (Ogobuchionye),

Your Memory Will Never Fade God looked around his garden and found an empty place He then looked down upon the Earth and saw your tired face He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest With the help of his angels they flew you to your heavenly place. Job 19:25-26 for I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God. Ogobuchionye, Ifeanyi, was a great husband to my sister who loved her dearly. He was her calm. She, his dynamo. Together they valued family and home. He was a great leader and his love brought out the best love in my sister. I know Rose wishes that she and Ifeanyi could have at least doubled their years together. She's asked me to say on her behalf that Ifeanyi was a loving husband, a faithful friend, always kind, generous, and anxious to please people.

Ecclesiastes 7:1 a good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth. If eany i is notorious with helping people. So many people called him dad, not because he was their biological dad, but rather, due to the role he played in their lives. He was responsible for climb He closed your weary eye-

bringing countless number of people from Nigeria and sponsoring their educations here in United States. He was also notorious for helping many Nigerians living abroad. I benefitted from his generosity for he was instrumental in securing a position for me, at the District Attorney's Office of New Orleans, several years ago. He was also a Matchmaker who introduced my loving husband and

I, to each other.

When I look at my sister and how happy he had made her, I thank God for their beautiful love and exemplary marriage. His famous saying for the last ten years of their marriage during each visit or encounter, was, "Please help me thank Obiageli (Rose's Igbo name) because without her care and love, I will not know where I would have been today." Truth be told, my sister went above and beyond, in caring for her husband and always prayed to God that he gets better and live life to the full-

God's garden must be beautiful, he always takes the best He knew you were suffering, he knew you were in pain He knew that you would never get well on Earth again He saw the road was getting rough and the hills too hard to

lids and whispered "Peace be Thine" It broke our hearts to lose you but you didn't go alone For part of us went with you the day God called you home. Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest



for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

## **Your wonderful personality**

est.

Words would never be enough to describe your wonderful personality. Uncle Ifeanyi, you, were a very big positive influence to us all. You had a very large heart to advise and to help people. Your philanthropy was extra terrestrial. I will never forget your benevolence to my late parents, especially my Father who joined the Saints triumphant in July this year. The last time you came home, you visited my Father.

I believe many people (especially your kinsmen) would attest to the fact that you were a perfect example of what the Bible says in the book of Acts 20:35("it is more blessed to give than to receive"). Uncle Ifeanyi,may God grant your kind soul perfect rest.

From one of your sons, Greg Oduah-Abrahams



#### TRIBUTE TO DR. I.C.A OKPALOBI OF BLESSED MEMORY

Uncle lived a very fulfilling life worthy of emulation. A devoted Catholic, an accomplished medical practitioner of high repute. Kindhearted and generous to a fault. A detribalized Nigerian who takes delight in rendering financial support to several persons irrespective of their tribe or religion, from all walks of life during their course of studies in various universities at home and abroad, in which I am also a beneficiary, and not to mention several lives he has touched and impacted on either in their businesses, academic, medically and well-being - the list is endless.

Death is heartless!!!

May the good Lord grant his soul eternal rest and also grant us all the fortitude to bear the loss. Amen

Anthony-Okocha

Houston Texas (U.S.A)

## TRIBUTE TO MY DEAREST UNCLE

Words, number symbol cannot quantify your personality both to me and to everyone who has ever had an encounter with you.

Uncle, a man of peace, honesty and loving kindness is gone!!! You will forever remain in our memories as you will be missed greatly by all of us.

I miss your kind words and simplicity, you were such a humble man. My wonderful guardian, you laid a very good and unforgettable foundation for my family. You brought sunshine to our dear days.

Your personality and what you stood for will ever be stamped in my Heart. Continue to rest in the bosom of the Lord.

May God accept your humble soul.

Amen.

Mrs. Igwenwanne Franca

## TRIBUTE TO OUR WONDERFUL UNCLE & DAD



A special Dad and Uncle hard to find.

As we look back.

As we look back over time

We find ourselves wondering.

Did we remember to thank you enough

For all you have done for us?

For all the times you were by our sides

To help and support us.

To celebrate our successes

To understand our problems

And accept our defeats?

Or for teaching us by your example,

The value of hard work, good judgment,

Courage and integrity?

We wonder if we ever thanked you.

For the sacrifices you made.

To let us have the very best.

We're thanking you now.

And we are hoping you knew all along,

How much you meant to us.

We'll always remember you Uncle because there will never be another one to replace you in our hearts.

You are a man of God in your church, in Catholic Community. You are a church builder. God in His infinite mercy will grant you the grace of Heaven and by that same grace we shall meet there to part no more.

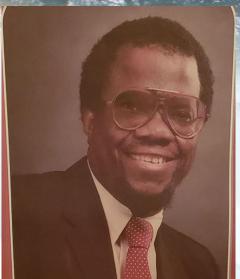
Adieu, Uncle

Late Mrs. Regina Nwaokobia's Children



## A man who sought to know God and His Word Jesus Christ





Thu, Nov 29, 2018 11:06 pm Paul Evbuoma

Dr. I. C. A. Okpalobi was a man who sought to know God and His Word Jesus Christ. He wanted to worship God in Spirit and Truth. He was not just satisfied with being a religious man. He wanted to personally experience the peace and joy that comes with trusting and standing on God's Word and promises. As the senior pastor at Zeboath Christian Center, I saw in Dr. Okpalobi and learned what it means to be drawn and fond of God. I can testify to his total unshackled commitment to living according to the precepts of the Word Pastor Zeboath Christian Center to the best that our heavenly Father will allow. I am a personal witness

to his awesome growth in the Word and the tremendous work of the Holy Spirit in his life.

As he went through his health challenges, the peace of Christ Jesus sustained him as God also surrounded him with a loving family and friends. I must mention the support of his wife Rose who was by his side not only at our bible fellowships, but also throughout all those on this journey, it is a humhis medical emergencies. Truly sister Rose was his God sent help-

As Dr. I.C.A. Okpalobi has finally put off his earthly tabernacle, let us rejoice with the heavenly angels who gladly received him at heaven's gate forming the entourage that accompanied him into the great hall of God's presence. Yes he successfully crossed the River into the eternal presence with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is now one of numerous clouds of believing witnesses. I pray God's continuous hedge of protection over his children and family. I say Farewell Doc, all is well and shall continue to be well in Christ Jesus, amen and amen.

Pastor Paul Osazuwa Evbuoma, Sr.

#### TRULY A GREAT MAN

In life are ear-



some people marked to em-

bark on a journey that is far beyond their human reach. So for ble divine privilege to positively impact the life of others. For us on the side line, it is greatness.

Dr. Okpalobi is one of the privileged few, divinely earmarked for a journey that will change the life of others. Quoting the great Nelson Mandela "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." Dr. Okpalobi made a difference in the lives of many, and he is truly a great man.

Mike Nwaokobia - Grand Nephew.

#### A Tribute to A Worthy Friend

Yes, I know Dr. Okpalobi, Dr. Okpalobi is my friend. This was the repeated answer to the repeated question—Do you know Dr. Okpalobi, often asked by Americans who happened to know that you are a Nigerian in New Orleans. I often answer that way with pride, knowing that associating myself with Dr. ICA, was associating with someone they know and respect. Yes, I know Dr. Okpalobi, he was a humble man, a generous man, a kind man, a Goodman. Yes, I know Dr. Okpalobi, he was magnanimous, noble and steadfast. An elder-statesman, a leader, an advocate, a mentor, and larger than life figure who humbles himself to be a friend of the big and the small; yes, I know Dr. Okpalobi. Now, that you are gone, I testify, among others, to your goodness, I pay my homage in humility and carry your memory with pride. I know Dr. Okpalobi, Dr. Okpalobi was my friend, Do you know Dr. Okpalobi? Now a gentle soul, rest in peace my friend, your memory lives on.

Paul Okhakia



# Sheila Davenport put her trust in one of Gods' servants by the name Dr. Okpalobi



Fri. Dec 7, 2018 11:01 am Wallace wrote:

I lost my mother at a young age. My family would always share many memories of my mother with me. One memory always intrigued me, was the story of how I received the name Chukwuemeka. My mother Sheila Davenport was a proud woman. One who was passionate about the injustices of her people during the civil rights movement here in America. Dr. Okpalobi was my mother's doctor when she discovered that she was pregnant. Sheila Davenport suffered from epilepsy seizures. My mother was what is referred to today as a high risk pregnancy. The fear was that my mother could suffer a seizure while in labor. Sheila Davenport trusted Dr. Okpalobi to ensure the safe delivery of her child as well as her own health. Sheila Davenport was advised by others to not take the risk and have an abortion. My mother decided to go against the advise she received from family members and other physicians. Sheila Davenport put her trust in one of Gods' servants by the name Dr. Okpalobi delivered me with no complications with my mother or her child. Sheila Davenport was so grateful she asked Dr. Okpalobi to give her child a name. Dr. Okpalobi gave me the name Chukuwuemeka, which means in the Ibo language "God has done well." I'm honored to share this story with his family and loved ones. I'm forever grateful for Dr. Okpalobi. I truly know that he was sent as a servant of God.

Sincerely,

Wallace Chukuwuemeka Sam



#### MY TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND AND A BIG BROTHER:

Doctor Ifeanyi Okpalobi lived a good and full life. I met Doc in 1990 through a mutual Business associate and instantly we hit it off. Not only were we both from Ibo speaking Delta State, we both called New Orleans a second home. We got to know each other very well and exchanged visits. Doc never forgot his home country of Nigeria, He enjoyed both the US Culture and the Nigeria culture but Nigeria always came first.

Doc had a huge heart, very generous and welcoming to all, few of us knew what he did for the less fortunate. His house was open to all, His parties were special especially during holidays, We will miss your parties and most especially we would miss your company and your wisdom. Rest in Peace my business associate, friend and big brother!

BEN IZEGBU CEO Bicontinental Corp



#### A Tribute to Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi, Onwa

Onwa,

Your light shown unabridged Your generosity knew no bounds

**O**nwa,

Ever open and trusting

A disposition, so often abused by benefactors

**O**nwa

You bore no malice

A gentle giant, given to uplifting individuals and the community

**O**nwa,

NOLA embraced your healing hand, in service to the most needy

NOLA enjoyed your welcoming disposition, of the lowly and the high

Onwa,

Your good large heart, accommodated all, in equal proportions

Sweet gentle giant, all, whom you touched, thank God for your life

Sweet gentle giant, we bid you farewell Sweet gentle giant, cruise on to the bosom of the Lord

Tony & Clara Isama

Silver Spring, Maryland





## A man for all seasons!

Dr. Okpalobi was a man I grew to know and love through my aunty Rose. Ever so attentive and kind. I was 6 months pregnant and a new resident of New Orleans while starting a new job; and you became my family. This bond grew through the birth of my lovely Ada, UreAnjali Rose.

Uncle, you always had a kind word and really good advice in times of strife. Many lively and fun times where had at the Okpalobi home. A home that really welcomed all without question. It was a joy visiting New Orleans again many years later with my family and know that smile and healthy laughter was still ever so strong- "Thank you uncle and aunty for the unreserved love."

Uncle, may you continue to rest in the bosom of our good Lord. May our Lord provide solace and comfort to your loved ones.

Aunty, allow Our Lady to wipe your tears. ♥□

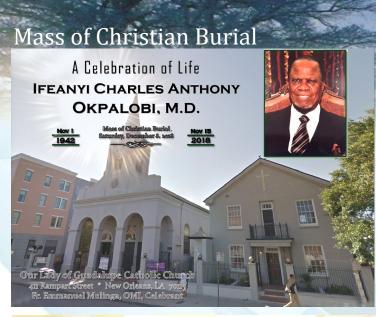
Love,

Ngozi Mezu-Patel, MD Infectious Disease, New York

























## Repass after Mass of Christian Burial

















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## Memfys Hospital for Neurosurgery

[GLOBAL MEMFYS & CO. LTD.]

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P.O. Box 2292, Enugu, Nigeria

**①** 0803-353-2973:

web: www.memfys.net

⊠:memfys1@hotmail.com

#### TRIBUTE TO Late DR. IFEANYI CHARLES ANTHONY OKPALOBI, MD.

The news of Tony's death came to me as a great shock and triggered a journey down memory lane. I first met Tony in Lagos 1962 as a fellow Federal Scholar on a flight to Cairo for our Medical School education at Cairo University. We shared the same hostel and became close friends.

There were few of us from Nigeria in that city, hence, the bond between us grew stronger and stronger. Tony loved music and dancing and really enjoyed his years in Egypt taking advantage of the recreational escapes that the American Embassy provided foreign students at the time. He even was one of the few foreign students that benefited from a USA sponsored holiday tour of their country.

The Biafra War prevented us from returning home upon graduation. Tony ended up in the USA where he specialized in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. I opted for Britain to specialize in neurosurgery. Luckily, we achieved our goals.

Our friendship blossomed despite our physical separation. Many years later in 1985, Tony, upon finding out that I was at Henry Ford Hospital Detroit on Sabbatical Leave, insisted on my visiting him at New Orleans. He and his family lavishly hosted me at their magnificent residence. I was introduced to the Nigerian community there and the visit ended up as an academic and social expedition. I was able to appreciate how Tony had touched many lives and was a mentor to many people at New Orleans, especially Nigerians.

I recall with nostalgia our quiet moments in Cairo, meditating and meandering around the ancient edifices like the Great Pyramids and Sphynx. We searched for deeper life and greater heights beyond medical education and I believe that our lives were enriched and transformed.

Adieu Tony. We pray that you find peace and tranquility. We also pray for God to console those you have left behind.

MAY YOUR SOUL REST IN PERFECT PEACE.

Samuel C Ohaegbulam NNOM



## "By their fruits ye shall know them"



Theme: "By their fruits ye shall know them"

In order to proceed with paying a humble tribute to this our late society giant and pillar of strength, I would like to

borrow a simple quote that states as follows: "The strongest people are those who make time to help others, even when they are struggling with their own personal problems." Dr. I.C.A. Okpalobi was a true disciple of Christ. Often, he abandoned his own life's challenges to minister to our woes. "By his stripes, we were healed".

This reminds me of our late beloved icon, Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi, fondly referred to as "DR. I.C.A."

When I first came to New Orleans by January of 1996 from Boston for my confirmation interview at Xavier University, the then Vice President of Academic Affairs asked me, almost as a final passing question, whether I knew Dr. I.C.A. Okpalobi. I later found out that my response in the affirmative was almost the final testimony that guaranteed me that faculty position!

By early 1996, the name of this great and noble man had become a household word, not only among fellow Nigerians but also among fellow African immigrants, native New Orleanians and state as well as national and international officials and representatives. His extraordinary caring community outreach, his health-related engagements, clinical offerings, entrepreneurial innovations and affiliate projects (local, regional, state, national and international), placed him in contact with numerous individuals including people in dire financial and social circumstances, the rich and powerful, government officials, politicians, community, religious and business leaders, and of course, newer immigrants (ALIAS the JJCs) and ordinary folks like you and I. Our late brother's powerful ministry of benevolence to all was molded by his divine gift of seeing Christ in each and every human spirit he encountered. His Christ-like approach to life was shown in the numerous acts of kindness reflected in the many testimonials we have all witnessed since he left us by mid November 2018.

Indeed for many years here in our Nigerian Community in New Orleans, the Okpalobi name and credentials opened doors and created numerous opportunities for so many people from different social strata here in the USA and also in our native Nigerian nation and Africa in general through his brain-child, The African Chamber of Commerce plus several other organizations founded by this great son of Zion.

For many years, Dr. I.C.A. was our "go to" person, our beacon of light here in a new environment, our originator, our peacemaker, our social, intellectual and societal giant, a man of impeccable integrity and honesty, a true son of God our Father.

It's like when all else fails, go to Dr. I.C.A.!. As his name correctly connotes, "IfeanyiChukwu" lived true to what his precious parents called him at birth; indeed for him, "God never fails!".

By summer of 2016, when a sister of mine accompanied me to the Church of Our Lady of Guadeloupe for special prayers and holy mass, we were most pleasantly happy to see our late beloved brother, serving the noon mass. What a joy, what a blessing!

In closing this tribute, I think of the saints, Anthony and Charles, whose footsteps our brother had followed through his baptism and confirmation. I also think of other saints like St. Martin De Porres, the patron saint of the poor and disenfranchised, the voice of the afflicted and the down-trodden. I think of him as whom, in Igbo culture and language as "NwanneOtuOnye" which means, the ardent helper of the poor and the marginalized.

Yes, he was all of that and so much more!.

In closing, I would like to refer you to the beautiful prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi where the saint starts off by asking the Lord to make him an instrument of His peace, where there is hatred, joy; where there is doubt, faith; despair, hope; where there is darkness, light and so on.

I therefore leave you brethren to see for yourself and to emulate the humble discipleship rendered before us by this novel evangelist, this humble servant of God, Dr. IfeanyiCHUKWU Anthony Charles Okpalobi.

"To live In the hearts of those you love, is not to die".

Yes, indeed, you have stayed the course. Yes you have fought a good fight. You have proven yourself as a TRUELY worthy son of God! Adieu, our beloved brother, DR. I.C

A. Okpalobi!!

May your gentle spirit rest in the bosom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen!.

Humbly and respectfully Submitted by Professor TINA EDMUNDS-OGBUOKIRI NEW ORLEANS, LA. January 14th 2019.





## A man who never met a stranger

Josephine Okoronkwo arrived in New Orleans in the last trimester of a pregnancy. No Obstetrician/Gynecologist would accept her as a patient. But, it was not so with the good Obstetrician/Gynecologist. The good Doc provided her with prenatal care and delivered the baby safely. That was thirty three years ago. Doc never met a stranger. Everybody was somebody.

As he prepared to celebrate his quarter of a century in medical practice, he requested that I serve as one of the speakers. I suggested to him to make his own speech colorful. In his speech, he said, "at the suggestion of someone, I bought coloring pencils for this speech". Many fell off their chairs in laughter. He was a humorous man.

A visionary leader, community builder, a social justice and cultural advocate, Doc was an advocate for women's rights. To him, man and woman are created equal with the same inalienable rights. He did not waste time and effort in propelling me to be the first female President of the New Orleans Chapter of the Organization of Nigerian Professionals, USA, Inc.,(ONP-USA), a national organization across the USA which he founded. Then, he single handedly funded the annual celebration of Nigeria's Independence hosted in five star hotels in New Orleans and the upper regions where dignitaries from everywhere gathered. Nigerian artistes like Chief Stephen Osabede, Oriental Brothers and Oliver De Coque entertained the audience. Flavor, P- Square and today's artistes were yet unborn; they would have been there. Doc bore the cost himself.

Doc loved humanity. He contributed in his own big way to the progress of humanity. He yawned for peace and unity in the community. He led numerous peace and unity committees within the Nigerian community. He laced his initiatives with proverbs, idioms and lavish language.

Adieu Doc. May God rewards you for all your good deeds to humanity. You never met a stranger. Everybody was welcomed in your place. To his wife, Mrs. Rose Oby Okpalobi, children, and family, please be consoled knowing that Doc finished his race here with distinction. Rest In Peace.

Josephine Okoronkwo-Onor, PH. D. candidate Public Policy, Southern University, Baton Rouge Director, Student Development/International Center Southern University at New Orleans







## DR. I. C. A. Okpalobi

November 1, 1942 – November 15, 2018

I write this tribute with great sadness over the unimaginable loss of dearest friend and our community leader, Dr. I. C. A. Opkalobi. We have exactly known each other for a very long time, thirty-four years since I arrived in the city of New Orleans. He is a leader, our community organizer, elder statesman and a philanthropist who had made a great difference in people's lives. He was also well known in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana for his support to the leaders of the city of New Orleans, states of Louisiana and united states of America.

He was a humble man who respects himself and others around him. He worked hard with people in our community in New Orleans, Louisiana, the United States of America to bring them together even if there was a political difference among us.

He had served in various capacity in all the organization that kept us together; Association of Nigeria in New Orleans, Organization of Nigerian Professionals, Ndeigbo Development Foundation (NDF) and World Igbo Congress in united states of America. Under my leadership as a president of NDF, he represented us well in national body with World Igbo Congress of united states of America where he won national honor for his services and leadership skills.

He will be assuredly missed in our midst for his compassion, peace, love, leadership and his support to us and others. May his soul rest in perfect peace with our Lord in heaven in Jesus name—amen!

By: Sunday Uhiara

# A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO A DEAR BROTHER, IFEANYI CHARLES ANTHONY OKPALOBI, M.D.

Thank you Dr. ICA Okpalobi (a brother indeed) for making it possible for me to come to America for my futuristic goals. There are a lot of good things you did for me that I am grateful for & about but for the lack of space I will name only but few. And also I am thanking you for instilling and emphasizing on my being the University's Top Graduate. I do not think that it would have been possible without you and also my living with you which gave me more free time to study.

Little did people know that it was an agreement / promise made between you, NNA & myself to come to America and become #1 at the University. I sill remembered that you bought over five of New Orleans' Newspapers (THE TIMES PICAUYNE) by then and gave them to Nna. Nna in return re-published it in NIGERIAN NATIONAL NEWSPAPER known as THE PUNCH. 1985. Thank you, thank you, brother Ifeanyi. It is not easy to say good bye to a respectable brother that you will never see again but who am I, to question God's timing? Life is too short. I know you touched so many lives either directly or indirectly. Once again, thank you, thank you and thank you so much

YOU WILL BE MISSED.

From: Steve A. Okpalobi, Jr.

#### Dear Mrs. Rose and The Okpalobi Family,

It's with sincere regret to here about the death of Dr. Ifeanyi Okpalobi. On behalf of Dr. Nwabuni Michael Obata, I, Ashimedua Obata extend our sincere condolence to you and to the entire Okpalobi Family. Also, the loss of the Dr. Ifeanyi Okpalobi is not only for the family, but for the entire Nigerian Nation. Nigeria, Delta State, Ibusa/Achalla has lost a giant of a man, and may his soul rest in perfect

Sincerely,

Mr. Ashimedua Obata

C/O Dr. Nwabuni Michael Obata and the Entire Obata Family













STILL DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT

As a former close friend of Dr. Ifeanyichukwu Okpalobi, I still find it very difficult to accept the hard reality that the amiable doctor and first elected Chairman of PDP-USA CHAPTER is no more. I thought it was a nightmare when the news got to me a few hours after his demise. Dr. Okpalobi was not only the National Chairman of the then Nigerian ruling party in America but also its main FINANCIER since money wasn't coming from the National Hqtrs in Nigeria to fund the party in America. He carried out this role with humility, glamour and class. I personally became one of his closest political associates which transcended into a closer friendship, our age gaps notwithstanding. He was reachable, humble and very transparent as a leader and as a friend. Dr. Okpalobi was an excellent family man and he cherished family values a lot. How dare death snatch away Ifeanyichukwu Okpalobi from the love of his life ROSE. Members of the Okpalobi family worldwide, Nigerians in America especially those living in the State of Louisiana, USA have lost a great man. Indeed, a giant Iroko tree has fallen and a big vacuum created because of his demise but we can't ask God why but rather give glory to the Almighty because of the good life Dr. Okpalobi lived. On behalf of my wife and my entire family, I extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Mrs. Rose Okpalobi and the entire Okpalobi family members. Please bear the loss with fortitude. May the good Lord accept his gentle soul into his eternal Kingdom. Amen. Adieu Doc.

Chief Sir Polly Z Ubah Founding Chairman PDP New Jersey Branch and former Deputy



#### Tribute To Dr Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi ,MD.

I called you daddy and your lovely wife mummy because you both took me like your flesh and blood even though I was a stranger. You opened the door of your home wide to all who cared to knock. You showed love and respect to the guests who throng into your house from Africa. I was one of them and you made me feel at home. I wish I could see you again just to say thank you and show gratitude. I wish I could follow you to church again in New Orleans. My prayer for you is that our Lord Jesus Christ should open the door of paradise to you.

Rest in peace until we meet on the last day to part no more.

Adieu my daddy!!

Mrs. Regina Oketa (Abuja, Nigeria)

#### Condolences

Please accept my deepest condolences for the death of your brother, our uncle Dr. Ifeanyi Okpalobi. May his soul rest in peace.

Craig Emeka Ezebuiro



Ifeanyi you will always be remembered

Okpalobi's Legacy











### A visionary Physician

I knew Dr. Ifeanyi Okpalobi (Onwa of Achalla-Ibusa) to be an Igbo man with a great mind. He was an optimistic problem-solver who never ignored the call to action. Ifeanyichukwu was a man of strong faith in God, a solid family man, and a humanitarian who excelled in community leadership. He was blessed by God with courage, charisma, humility, and compassion, all the most important attributes of a benevolent soul.

Dr. I.C.A. Okpalobi was a colleague whose ability was well recognized in the Medical field. Ifeanyichukwu had great organizational skills as demonstrated in the founding of Organization of Nigerian Professional (ONP). He was also a compatriot and an entrepreneur of first rate intelligence as evidenced in his founding of African Chamber of Commerce, New Orleans LA.

In summary, Dr. Okpalobi was amiable, adventurous, and energetic. He enjoyed life and was a fun loving human being.

We pray for almighty God to grant him joyful passage to the great beyond to be with our ancestors.

We condole with his family especially his wife and children to remain united and carry on the great legacy established by Ifeanyichukwu Charles Anthony Okpalobi. Adieu to a great man.

Chief, Dr. Nwachukwu Anakwenze, M.D. (Okala mmadu okala mmou) is the Onowu Abagana, Anambra State











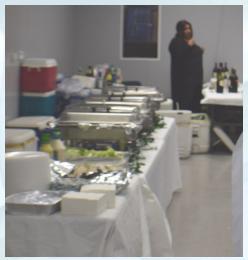


































































EXIT OF AN ICON









Kaomesia! Doc



### A RARE GEM IS GONE

You are a man who put smiles in the faces of the down-trodden, I've just not seen a man like you. Am still searching even when times are hard for your contemporaries, you still make things happen for the hard nuts. Despite the turmoil in our socio-economic setting, when the rich are just concerned about themselves, their wives and children, you're just the only one i know that still reaches out to the less privileged and everyone, always caring and concerned about everybody.

You're indeed a rare gem. May your gentle soul rest in the bosom of our lord, my great uncle Dr. Okpalobi Anthony Charles Ifeanyi, Amen.

Emili Anthony Paul and Family.



\* INTERVIEWS \* PROFILES \* ARTICLES \* EVENTS \* FASHION & STYLE \* PUBLISHERS \* PRINT PRODUCTION



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## Ohamadike War Dance





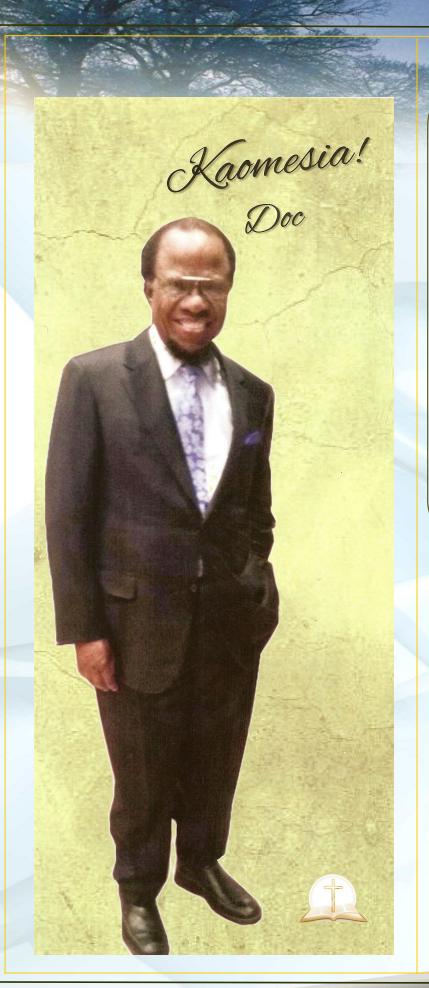
An old African proverb says
"It takes a village to raise a child."
Well it also takes a village to bury a Diokpa
Ifeanyichukwu Charles Anthony Okpalobi,
Nwanne di na mba,
dike ka ibu. Na ihi nka-a,

Ohamadike International (Bende War Dance) si na Bende LGA Abia State bia isi gi laa na udo.

Kaomesia Doc!

Chief Alexander Iheke (Opiegbe) is the Publisher of Igbo Basics Publications, a foremost Igbo publication based in USA A documentation of Igbo language, tradition & culture worldwide





### **APPRECIATION**

The family of late Dr. Ifeanyi Charles Anthony Okpalobi and the entire Okpalobi family of Achalla-Ibusa in Oshimili North LGA of Delta State, Nigeria expresses deepest and sincere appreciation to family members, in-laws, friends, professional colleagues, clergy and well wishers who have commiserated with us in this time of grief and celebration.

Your prayers, visits, phone calls, text messages, letters, words of comfort and financial support have been a source of strength to our family

May the almighty God bless and abide with you all

Amen.

Uche Okpalobi For the family

### **Imagine The Ikoro Sound** when Iroko tree falls



Okpalobi's Legacy is



For updates on this event, Visit: www.igbobasics.com/obituaryokpalobi.html



