



Mr. Tamerat Worku

December 17, 1954 - March 15, 2023

The following are remarks Tamerat “T” wrote years ago that confirmed his desire to love, empower and impact the lives of everyone he touched.

Tamerat “T” Worku passed away peacefully at his residence on March 15, 2023. “T”, as he was affectionately called, originally from Ethiopia, was raised in an extended family in the capital city of Addis Ababa. He attended and completed his elementary and secondary education at St. Joseph Catholic School, graduating in 1971. He started his higher education at the Haile Selassie University, but decided to take a break to help out with a family business. In 1973, he came to America to resume his studies at Gannon University in Erie, PA where he majored in Mass Media and Communications and minored in Political Science, graduating in 1978. He furthered his studies at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC, completing his Master’s degree in Government and International Relations in 1981. A firm believer in self-reliance, T worked two part-time jobs throughout his college years. During this time, he met his future wife, Brenda Moffett of Columbia, his best friend and partner, to whom he was married for forty-two (42) years.

T had thirty-three (33) years of state government service, thirty (30) of which were with South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ). He retired in 2013 finishing his career as Staff Development and Training Administrator – a position he held from 1981 to 1993 and an Adjunct Professor at Webster University from 2008 to present. As a life-long student, he actively pursued

personal and professional development, completing several state and national professional programs and certifications including: Curriculum Design '85, Academy in State Management '88, Basic Training Instructor '89, Cultural Diversity Facilitator '92, Team Leader Certification '94, Governor's Leadership Institute-EXCEL '98 and the CPM-Certified Public Manager '06. He also pursued and completed a second Masters in Management from Webster University in 1998. He was recognized as Employee of the Year for 1998-1999.

T believed in the maxim "Success unshared is failure" and in that spirit led his team by example, living the principles of spirituality, loyalty, integrity and forthrightness. He also practiced the "platinum rule" – treating others better than they expected to be treated. One testament of his leadership was that six (6) of his team members worked with and for him from 14 to 28 years. As one who believed in the motto "Each one teach one", he was a tutor for the Midlands Literacy Council, a volunteer instructor for the American Red Cross and provided career coaching to the next generation. He served as a Trustee of his church for many years. He was an active member of his high school association-St. Joseph School, Class of 1971-which has a scholarship program for deserving underprivileged students in Ethiopia since 2003. T was a student of history and current events; enjoyed reading, constructive conversation, smooth jazz, moderate exercise, table-tennis, and travel to quiet and relaxing places. His favorite maxims were – "There is enough in this world for everyone's need, but not everyone's greed." – Ghandi and "The time is always right to do what is right." – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

T is survived by his loving wife of forty-two years, Brenda Moffett Worku of Columbia, South Carolina; uncles, Asfaw (Kumari) Hunde of Stockholm, Sweden, Aschalew (Nouria) Hunde of Washington, DC; cousins, Dr. Daniel and Sara Hunde of Stockholm, Sweden; Sena, Nahil and Sifan Hunde of Washington, DC and several other cousins around the global village, as he referred to it.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **22**. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel
1200 Fontaine Place
Columbia, SC 29223

A Celebration of Life

MAR **23**. 1:00 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

Chappelle Memorial AME Church
1101 Pine St
Columbia, SC 29205-1051
(803) 254-7911

Entombment

MAR **23**. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Greenlawn Memorial Park

Tribute Wall



“ Palmer Memorial Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Tamerat Worku



Palmer Memorial Chapel - March 24, 2023 at 12:20 PM



“ Mr. Tamerat Worku

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ My condolences to Mrs. Worku and family. I am just learning of Professor Worku's passing. I enjoyed his class at Webster University, he was very inspiring and made you want to learn more and we always had a good time!

LaShondra Anderson - April 04, 2023 at 03:21 PM



“ My condolences and prayers to the Worku family. Prof. Worku was one of my favorite instructors. He made class interesting and fun. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. RIP
Annette Jones



Annette Jones - March 29, 2023 at 10:25 AM

AJ

“ Alice Jones lit a candle in memory of Tamerat Worku



Alice Jones - March 29, 2023 at 10:21 AM

RB

“ To Brenda and Family, we are praying for you and may God continue to comfort and keep you. Love. Ronnie, Barbara and Briana Brown. Baldwin Park CA

Ronnie Brown - March 23, 2023 at 09:24 PM

DS

“ On behalf of the class of 1971 of Saint Joseph School Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, please celebrate brother Tamerat Worku with this video. RIP Tamerat. 🙏 (Prepared by Daniel Tadesse)
<https://youtu.be/7yT7cs0EXAI>

Daniel Tadesse (St. Joseph School) - March 22, 2023 at 05:36 PM

WT

Thank you for sharing these precious memories. My heart felt condolences to all of you.

Wondwossen Tadesse - March 24, 2023 at 01:14 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Tamerat Worku.



March 22, 2023 at 03:42 PM

RC

“ Rev. & Mrs. Timothy Cokley purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Tamerat Worku.



Rev. & Mrs. Timothy Cokley - March 22, 2023 at 01:53 PM

CH

“ Dear Worku family, we will be praying and lifting you up during this most difficult time. I was an adjunct professor at Webster when I worked there years ago. He was outstanding and students loved taking his courses. He always treated me kind and respectful. He will be missed. God bless, George and Charlotte Hamilton



Charlotte Hamilton - March 22, 2023 at 07:07 AM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Tamerat Worku.



March 22, 2023 at 04:47 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Tamerat Worku.



March 22, 2023 at 12:17 AM

DT

“ *Tamerat was a dear brother and friend to many. He will be missed dearly. Our heartfelt condolences to sister Brenda and the family.
Dawit and Abenet Teklu*

Dawit Teklu - March 21, 2023 at 11:46 PM

MC

“ *Mary Cheeseboro lit a candle in memory of
Tamerat Worku*



Mary Cheeseboro - March 21, 2023 at 12:21 PM

MC

“ *Mary Cheeseboro lit a candle in memory of
Tamerat Worku*



Mary Cheeseboro - March 21, 2023 at 12:20 PM

SM

“ *Condolences and prayers for my family.
Tamaret will be missed by all the lives he
touched. We love you Brenda and pray that
God will comfort you during this time of
bereavement.*



Sandra Macon - March 21, 2023 at 12:17 AM

VE

“ *Vivian Edmonds lit a candle in memory of
Tamerat Worku* ”



Vivian Edmonds - March 20, 2023 at 08:14 PM