



## Mumia Shimaka-Mbasu

April 4, 1949 - May 31, 2020

### EULOGY OF THE LATE RICHARD MUMIA SHIMAKA

April 4, 1949 – May 30, 2020

Richard Mumia Shimaka was born April 4, 1949 in Kakamega, Kenya, to Zakayo Mbasu and Delila Shimaka. He was the third of nine children, five of whom are still with us here today.

After completing primary and secondary school in Kenya, Mumia came to the United States for further studies in 1971 under the sponsorship of Homer L. Veil family missionaries in Kenya and the North Carolina Friends Meeting. In the U.S., he earned his BA from Guilford College and his Masters in African History from Ohio University. He then moved to Washington, D.C., to pursue a Ph.D from Howard University.

At Howard University he met Beverly Atkins, whom he married in 1984. He stayed in the Washington, D.C. area for the next thirty years, working as a historical curator at the Smithsonian Institution and then later as a high school teacher in Maryland. He was as a volunteer soccer coach for about twenty-five years, spreading his love of the game to minority youth all over the D.C. metro area.

Mumia stayed an active member of the Quaker Community wherever he lived, including over thirty years of service with the Adelphi Friends and, most recently, here with the Minneapolis Friends.

Mumia was a kind person and loving family man. He loved his siblings and the community where he was born in Kakamega. He started various community projects to assist the less privileged, in line with the strong values his parents imparted on him from childhood.

He was privileged to sponsor some of his friends and family members to immigrate and study in the United States and encouraged others to work hard in their studies in order to better their lives.

Mumia moved to Minnesota in the summer of 2012 after suffering a stroke that left his speech impaired and his mobility diminished. While in Minnesota, he lived in Bloomington under the care of his two sisters, supported by other members of his loving family.

Although physically and vocally impaired, he remained active and engaged—attending Meetings, going to the gym, gardening, cooking, visiting family. Despite being unable to speak, he was able to win friends and positively impact people with his warmth of spirit wherever he went.

One week ago, Mumia was admitted to the hospital and diagnosed with COVID-19. The virus was hard on his body, and on May 31, 2020 at 4:06am Central Time, Mumia Shimaka was finally able to rest.

He is survived by his four children—Rebecca, Mukosi, Lela and Christian. He has been a loving father, brother, uncle and grandfather to his family, and a positive addition to every community he lived in. He was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

May he Rest in Peace.

# Tribute Wall

FB

“ *Mumia and our family shared a friendship for over 20 years. He was always ready to lend a hand, asking what he could do to help in any situation. Mumia’s smile lit up any room he entered. He was such a gentle, kind and good man. Mumia as was an exemplary father. Watching him with Mukosi and Lela and all the reports of him showing up for them as a father leave no doubt of his devotion. It was the same devotion that Mumia demonstrates with his larger family. May beautiful memories of Mumia sustain those who grieve his passing most keenly. We know that Mumia is now in a place of eternal light and enduring peace. — Frances and Bill Beard*

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**frances and Bill Beard** - June 08, 2020 at 04:55 PM

EW

“ *Condolences to the entire family, we were hoping to meet you alive one day, but God had greater plans for you  
We will always miss you uncle'*

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**Eliud walutsachi** - June 04, 2020 at 07:48 PM

BS

“ *My sincerest sympathies to Mumia's family who he loved so much. Mumia was a special person. His kindness was one of his strengths. Of course, most people are kind to family and friends but his kindness extended to include strangers. He didn't pass a stranger stranded on the road without trying to help. Even animals felt his kindness. I remember him stopping on the way to work to help birds that were darting in and out of traffic. It turned out there was bread in the roadway. He took time to retrieve the bread and put it in the median so the birds would be safe. That was typical Mumia. May he rest in peace.  
Beverly Shimaka.*

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**Beverly Shimaka** - June 04, 2020 at 02:23 PM

ES

*I miss my brother Mumia. Love you brother*

**Esther Shimaka** - October 04, 2025 at 02:23 PM

RM

“ *Uncle loved oral hygiene. He would remind everyone when he visited us in Kenya to brush our teeth everyday and even demonstrated to us how it should be done. Not forgetting being keen on diet..*

*He loved education, in all our conversations, he always encouraged me to work hard and aim higher in school .. I still owe him one degree.*

*He sacrificed and contributed a lot to ensure I complete college and internship. We did communicate regularly on email, I still have the conversations. I remember he left me with his favorite suitcase to join college with, this was after my mum's burial 😭:this was my very first suitcase to own by the way. He could call and as much as I didn't understand everything he said, the feeling he left was fatherly love to his daughter... Thank you Wycky, you always came in handy to help us understand each other through the calls. The memories are many..... Thank you Papa for making my dream come true. We will miss you big time. Rest well till we meet again on the resurrection day.*

**Rita Mukosa** - June 03, 2020 at 07:51 PM

UG

*Kwa wote waliofiwa: Nawapeni mkono wa tanzia kwa kumpoteza baba mzazi.  
Hayati Shimaka ni kama Ndugu yangu. Nimesikitika sana kusikia ya kwamba tayari ameshatuaga na hatakuwa nasi tena.  
Nawaombeni muendeleo kufuata nyayo zake za kutilia nguvu umuhimu wakufaulu kwenye masomo.  
Nilikaa naye pamoja kwa muda tulipokuwa wanafunzi katika chuo kikuu cha Ohio huko Athens.  
Kwa wote mliofiwa, nawapeni pole sana.*

*Ni mimi Ndugu yake,  
Umbisa Kendeli Gusa.*

Umbisa Kendeli Gusa - June 03, 2020 at 11:39 PM

UG

*Poleni sana.*

Umbisa Kendeli Gusa - June 03, 2020 at 11:40 PM

DL

*RIEP*

Deborah Luganda - June 05, 2020 at 07:38 AM

JM

*“ We did love you brother....fare thee well ndugu.*

Jacob Mbasu - June 03, 2020 at 06:11 PM

FK

*May your soul rest in peace daddy*

Fatma Kassim - June 03, 2020 at 06:38 PM