

Celebrating the Life of Nyewusi Askari

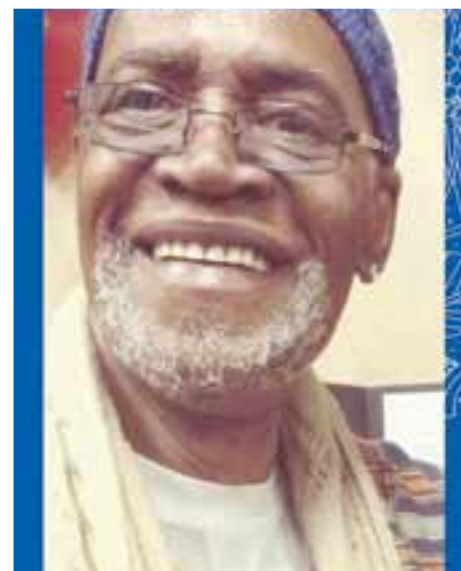
Kelly Cornelius Norman a.k.a Nyewusi Askari transitioned from this life to his eternal home on Saturday, November 25, 2023, at 11:40 am. Kelly was the eldest son born on August 18, 1945, to Cornelius Norman and Mae Bell Norman Burkhalter. Askari departed this life at the age of 78 years. Kelly was a 1964 graduate of Washington Parish High School where he played the tuba in the marching band. Upon graduating from high school, he received a scholarship in music to attend Grambling State University. After attending Grambling for one year, he decided to relocate to Seattle, Washington then later to Portland, Oregon. In 1979, Askari met Ayanna at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington. Askari saw this "bad afro walking by in the cafeteria with a fierce bounce!" And he thought to himself I'm gonna have

her." In 1991, they were married by Pastor Joshua Phillips. Because of his love for the arts - music, drawing, dance, storytelling, and theater - he organized the Sojourner Truth Theater. For ten years, he traveled Oregon and other states presenting his plays. Askari often performed in schools, for social agencies, and the penal system. In 2022, after presenting African American Culture studies for ten years, he retired from the Portland Public School System. Askari always displayed a contagious pleasant smile, a caring attitude, and never met a stranger.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cornelius and Mae Bell; stepfather, Willie Burkhalter; son, Ayodele Askari; brothers, David Norman, Lendsey Norman, Jesse Norman and Michael Norman; sister Delores Norman; stepsisters Dorothy Briggs and Car-

ol Bell; stepbrother, Weston Burkhalter.

To cherish his memory, Askari is survived by his wife of 44 years, Ayanna Askari, his son, Jumoke Askari, twelve grandchildren; Nasche, Ashjanea, Jumoke, Josiah, Malai-ka, Titan, Nia, Ayodele, Nala, Jaylen, Amari, Bella, a brother, Edward Norman (Deborah) of Mt. Hermon, LA; three sisters, Ola Magee (Richard), of Franklinton, LA; Katherine Gibbs and Willie Burkhalter, both of Bogalusa, LA; stepbrothers, Leroy Burkhalter of Franklinton, LA; Curtis Burkhalter, of Rose-land, LA; Allen Burkhalter, of Mt Hermon, LA; Willie E Burkhalter, of Los Angeles, California; stepsisters, Gwenda Dyson, of Los Angeles, California; Georgia Bickham, of Franklinton, LA; Augustine White, of Dayton OH and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, lots of other family, and friends.



Nyewusi Askari's Celebration of Life will take place Feb. 10th, 2024 at 1:pm at 1241 Lloyd Center, inside the mall entrance by Marshall's



Norman Branch

July 29, 1955 - January 31, 2024

Today our beloved Norman Branch is resting peacefully amongst others that have gone before him. He has graciously received his wings of gold.

Everyone looked up to him, he didn't allow any confusion. Like the strength of Gorilla glue, he was the adhesive of his family.

A Five Star General, a Legend, and Entrepreneur, a successful businessman who had a word when it came to taking care of business. Mainly to his children though, he was just "Daddy".

The love for his children, siblings, extended family, and friends, was phenomenal. He embraced strangers, they became a part of his family. An influential Icon to people in Portland, Oregon.

Words of wisdom to his children were: "Never Fold", "Keep Your Word", "Always Stand on Respect", "Do Right by Others" and "Keep Your Heart Right".

Norman was a true example of the phrase blood, sweat and tears. From hard work throughout the years, achieving all the goals he set for himself, is what made him the man he became. Especially the goal of remodeling his parents' home, the place he grew up in with his siblings, and able to share with his children.

Happier days were spent around his close friends known as "The Dream Team", fishing, on a boat enjoying life. One day Norman found himself on the edge of a fishing bank in his boxer's and T-shirt, with a fishing pole in hand. He probably caught a lot of fish that day.

Our beloved Norman is gone physically, but not in our hearts. He lives forever in our souls.

This loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, relative and friend will be missed dearly for Mr. Norman Branch was one in a Zillion, not a Trillion or a Million.

Funeral Home: Zeller's Chapel of The Roses, 2107 NE Broadway Portland, Oregon 97232, (503) 287-1155. Date of Service: Saturday, February 17, 2024 at Maranatha Church located at 4222 NE 12th Street. Contact Zeller's for time of Service & Internet Broadcasting.

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There is joy in putting food on someone's plate. Velda Hendricks knows the feeling well. But it's also a responsibility. She has lived and studied throughout the Caribbean — St. Kitts, Jamaica, St. Croix — to help island communities live healthier lives. And to broaden her impact and skills as an agriculture educator, Velda earned a degree online from Oregon State University. The diploma is new, but her mission remains: teaching people the hands-on, self-sustaining work of growing your own food.

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