



Forever in Our Hearts

*from
Cee your Wife*

Dear Daddy, you were a great man; you were a bigger star in your own right. Even though you are gone, the memorable and indisputable legacies that you left behind will never be forgotten: you will always be in my heart. In every aspect of life you were excellent. You were caring, considerate and straight forward. You were very much interested in human development that you did not fail to help anyone who was interested in education. You were very generous and helped many who were in need without any form of discrimination. No wonder you were honored with the title OCHENDO I.

You were a God fearing man and a devoted Christian. This is a legacy which you did not fail to transmit to your children. I am indeed thankful to God for the fulfilled and exemplary life you lived. You left your world better than you met it, and this is the reason why the world you were so kind to will never forget you.

At the time of your death, the entire members of your family were present and you slept peacefully with all respects accorded you. Daddy, we will definitely miss you. However, we are encouraged because we know that the gates of heaven are open to you and that the angels of God would welcome you into paradise. Continue to rest in peace Daddy, till we meet to part no more.

A FAREWELL MESSAGE TO MY DADDY, MY MENTOR AND EXTRA-ORDINARY STRATEGIST

My great pine, magnificent and courageous.

Lived well, shared and loved much; gained the love of your children and the respect of intelligent men.

You loved and blessed those who hated you.

Truly you pursued peace with even the worst of men.

I salute you Dad.

I remember all you have done for me, all the times you were by my side; to understand my problems and burden unsaid; to help and support me; to celebrate my successes and accept my defeat.

And I thank you Dad for instilling in me and my siblings the value of hard work, good judgment, courage and integrity; for the sacrifice you made to let me think and have the best.

Thank you my extra-ordinary strategist.

Thank you my biggest fan and motivator; only you knew my capabilities and you encouraged me with words and resources.

Ah, the journey, that journey is deep and far.

As you started it in coma, I prayed and hoped you could speak to me one more time but it never happened.

I watched you breath your last breathe as the doctor and nurses tried to restore it, but it was the last. And suddenly, everywhere went cold just like they say “onwu bata nga ajuo oyi”.

Your health care providers bowed, I could see their frustration, I trembled.

You and I were working on something. I prayed for you to see the beginning, at least. Don't worry Dad. I will make it happen at all cost, only walk with me, be my guardianAngel.

I don't think of you as dead, you're just away; I think of you as resting in a place of warmth and comfort; I think of you still the same way. I will surely see you no the other side.

Rest on my guardianAngel.

Ada Mazi,

NneniaAchor

Reflections on an Encyclopedia of Live-lessons: Tribute to a worthy presidential Daddy

Death your power is enormous and beyond every human command to quell. On that fateful morning of the 29th day of August, 2020, you visited again; we could not stop you. Death, you are certainly not victorious, because the soul of the breath of life you stole has returned to God. "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies" says the Lord (John 11:25). Like Martha, I strongly believe.

Onuobichie, Your autobiography recounts that "a cursory glance at the historical evolution of the life of Sir Emmanuel Nwafor Kanu reveals the peculiar history of a sage, transmuting the retinues of life's fundamental forces into an edifice that would stand the test of time." You understood the need for generational transformation and leveraged the influence of noble persons around you to attain a great height. To your destiny helpers, you never failed to pay tributes and in return without discrimination, you gave to many in the measures you received. To your ancestors, you consistently poured encomium. I am optimistic that on the day you returned, there was a party in the world beyond. For us your descendants and greatest asset you bequeathed to humanity; there shall be greater parties to celebrate you as our Quintessential Hero.

I recall with nostalgia your words in my teen; "ask me anything and I shall provide you an answer, for being educated does not mean having all knowledge, but consists in knowing where to find answers." Really, you provided answers to the questions of many that passed through you; an encyclopedia of live-lessons you were. From you I learnt to be courageous and hardworking; to exhibit integrity at all times; to give generously and selflessly; to seek knowledge limitlessly and to be focused and organized. In your footprint, I have learnt to value excellence and to abhor mediocrity. On you as a springboard, we are soaring to great heights.

Ochendo, thank you for being an exemplary Daddy. We are already missing you so much; your regular calls, wise counsel and encyclopedism.

Baba Kanu, as you were often called by your fans in FCEYola; you left a legacy in the Academics you have produced. This is your most precious gift to humanity.

Onuobichie, you have fought the good fight and finished the race; may God put upon you the crown of righteousness and grant you eternity.

Ezi Nnam, "Oku a gunyeru nwata na aka, a anahu eregbu ya". As your spirit lives, I am confident of success on the tasks you left for me.

Daddy, I love you so much. May God grant your soul eternal rest.

Your Son,
Emmanuel Uchenna Kanu
(Ogbonnaya)

Tribute to my father, my super hero and my biggest fan

Daddy, this is a tribute of gratitude. I call it so because there is so much for me to be grateful for. First, I thank the Almighty God for giving you a long, healthy and fulfilled life. I thank Him for giving you the grace to struggle during your childhood, to turn your own life around, and to impact the lives of the people who came into your life.

Second, I thank you, Daddy, for the role you played in my life and the lives of my siblings and so many other people. You were always present. You visited me many times throughout my schooling; you came to see me at the NYSC camp in Kaduna and at my place of primary assignment; you visited me in Lagos when I began my career newly and gave me your blessings. You never let us suffer or lack for anything that is important. You did not give up on any one of us; you continued to encourage us and give us total support. You were hardworking, courageous, strong and resourceful. Above all, you were so loving, and your love is the most powerful source of energy for me. You were always willing to help me. Up until a few weeks into your transition, you helped me review my articles, and you were always happy to read what I write. You were always the happiest about any good news I shared and always the first to share the news with family and friends. In spite of your great love (and also because of this love), you were strict; you knew when to give us sticks and when to give us carrots. Indeed, you were not just a nice father, you were also an effective father who insisted that we must pursue the goals for good life and success whether we wanted them or not. These are the measures of a good father. These are what made you transcend the hardships in your own life to raise an even better next generation.

Daddy, just as you used to say that there was nothing left for God to do for you, I also say today that there was nothing left for you to do for me. You did for me everything that a good father should do for his child. You were an excellent father and I am glad that you were very pleased with us, your children, and that you left this world a fulfilled and happy man. I miss you so much - your face, your voice, your constant close touch with me, and your infinite patience and energy. Your passing from this world is a difficult blow for me, and I hope the pain will go away with time.

When you became very ill, you told us that whichever way it went, we should celebrate and thank God because God had done so well for you. You said it should be a "Celebration of Life". It is not easy to celebrate the departure of someone with whom my life is linked; a person who has played the most significant roles in every aspect of my life; a father who genuinely cared for me and called me often. It is truly hard for me but as always, your wish is my command.

Daddy, I lost you only in body, not in spirit. I feel that you are with me still, and I still love you. As long as my heart beats, you will always be there. May your soul continue to rest in peace.

Farewell Nna m

Farewell Nwoke oma

Farewell, my forever-living compass.

Your daughter,
Chiugo Kanu
(Ugonnia)

Tribute to my Daddy: Sir Emmanuel Nwafor Kanu (KSJI)

When a mirror is broken, you no longer see your image. On that dreadful day (29th August, 2020) a day after I celebrated my birthday, you departed this World to join the Saints, it has not been same again for me.

Daddy you were the mirror at which I looked at my life, the mirror at which I looked at myself and now that you are gone, my life is so empty that I feel it in my soul. My solace is in the fact that you lived a righteous life. Every moments of your life is like a book on a path towards heavenly bliss.

Daddy, when I close my eyes, the image of you is all I see.... The summary of our togetherness from cradle to your exit lingers on my mind. It's a memory that even death cannot erase.

Your departure has made me broken and transformed me into a man. Not by gender but by willingness to do what great men do knowing that death is the end of every mortal. The transformation that life is vain and everything in it is vanity.

Rest in the Lord true soldier of the Faith.

Adieu my mirror.

Your Son,
Augustine Chiemeka kanu.

Memories of a Quintessential Hero

There is a certain sense of mystery that I feel when I look back at those times we spent together: if such moments did not inspire an article, it inspired a book and if it didn't inspire any of these, it prepared me for the future. The things we encounter in life that leave the greatest impressions on us are usually not clear. Even though I knew death was looming, I was hoping that I would have more time to get acquainted with the idea of death and what it means for those of us left behind, and yet no one has ever confessed being well acquainted with the concept of death.

You taught me what the true measure of a man is. You taught me that the true measure of a man is how much love he gives; how selflessly he shares whatever he can to help others; how consistently he lifts up those around him. You taught me that the only possession that a man has is the love that he has shared. You taught me to love even when it no longer makes sense. You taught me the value of hard work, courage and integrity. You celebrated our successes, understood our problems and accepted our defeats. You left your world better than you found it.

As my heart melts in my bosom, the Divine Word consoles me, reminding me that your death is only a sharp corner near the beginning of life's procession down eternity: "If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die we die for the Lord; either in life or in death we belong to the Lord" (Rom. 14:8). Scripture teaches further: "The Lamb on the throne shall shepherd them. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Rev. 7:17).

Onuobichie, in your death, we give you back to God, who gave you to us. As He did not lose you in giving you to us, so we do not lose you by your return. Not as the world gives does the Lover of Souls give. What He gives, He does not take away, for what is His is ours always since we are all His. Your death is only a horizon, and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight.

I Love you *Ochendo*. May the power of love which surpasses the violence of death bring us together some day again.

I will miss your calls *Ochendo*

I will miss your great learning *Onuobichie*

I will miss your encouragement *NwaAgada Gbachiri Uzo*

I will miss your Oratory *NwaAgbala- Otigbu Anyiya*

Until my breath fails me, I will always remember you on the altar of the Lord. May the peace of Christ be your eternal reward.

Your Son
Ikechukwu Anthony Kanu
(Agunnia)

An Eulogy to a great father in-law, Mazi, Sir, Emmanuel Nwafor Kanu (OCHENDO)

Love they say leaves a memory no one can steal, but death leaves a memory no one can heal.

Daddy, as we fondly call you, it is rather hard for me to write a Eulogy to you because I was however, planning for a tribute in commemoration of our 50th Wedding Anniversary (Golden Jubilee) which you never cease emphasizing that we should prepare for December, 2020, not knowing it was a call to prepare for your home calling.

You left us with shoes humanly impossible to fill. They are at best to be polished, kept safely for admiration, inspiration and in constant memory that Mazi, Sir, Emmanuel Nwafor Kanu, (a.k.a) Ochendo, came, saw and conquered simply by doing it at his own way. Indeed an Iroko tree has fallen across the river and serves as a bridge for those you left behind, your dear wife Cee as fondly calls her, Children, in-laws, grand-children, friends, well-wishers and Kinsmen, to continue in this journey of salvation.

Today I am honoured to celebrate the life of a very special man, a rare gem and breed of his generation.

A man I am proud to call my Father in-law.

A man who I know so well but of whom I am surprisingly learning more about even in death.

A man that could have an minute idea of a problem and never wink an eye or turn away from proffering solution.

Daddy, you were an Educationist to the brim and never cease to profess and inculcate that to anyone that comes in contact with you, that Education is the most important investment in human life and, hard work, honesty and integrity are the guaranteed route to a successful life.

Daddy, you were a disciplinarian without duplicity, who always advocates not doing things right but doing them the right way. I can say you were just an ordinary man who lived a truly extra-ordinary life, a rare species of his generation.

I thank God Almighty for availing me the opportunity to be associated with you as a father in-law. Daddy, my family –(my wife Nnennia your first child & daughter, my children –Chisom, Somtochukwu, Uchechukwu & Onyinyechi your grand-children) and I will vehemently miss you. We immeasurably and unequivocally love you but God loves you most. Go well Daddy and Rest in sweet Perfect Peace.

Good night!!!!

Innocent Anayochukwu Achor
(Son-in-law).

Tribute to my father-in-law, Mazi Emmanuel Kanu

My heart was broken when Chiugo informed me of your demise. As a father-in-law and a father figure, the news of your demise left a wound in my heart. It was hard for me to believe until we started the preparations for your burial.

It is sad to feel that you are no more with us on earth, but your love and peaceful memories are still with us. Thank you for your encouragement, direction, hard work, self-contentment and sacrifice for everyone. Thank you for making time for us to always listen when we needed you to. You were always guiding, correcting and giving us good counsel. You were never afraid to tell anybody the truth and to let people know what is right and what is wrong. I will remember you for all these and I will miss you.

I pray that God will give Uchenna the grace to carry the mantle of leadership from where you stopped and I believe your endless love will continue to bind us together. I hope you find eternal peace and salvation. I really hope that COVID -19 regulations around me will allow to travel back and physically witness your burial. However, I am sure we will one day reunite and rejoice with you when God calls us home.

Good bye Mazi.

Your son-in-law,
Amaobi Kanu



Tribute to my Father-in-law

Today we celebrate a life well spent... the life of a very great man.

Our in-law, father, grandfather and uncle was a person of impeccable characters. A peaceful and highly disciplined man.

You were always there for me and shared my joys and sorrows the only way a father could.

You lived a good life Dad, may you continue to rest in the bosom of the Lord .

Adieu Papa.

Rest in perfect peace. Amen.

Chinegwu Kingsley Chukwudi
Son-in-law

TRIBUTE TO A NOBLE DADDY-WORTHY FATHER-IN-LAW

We received the news of your departure with rudest shocked oh! A golden heart stopped beating, but after some minutes of pain and grief caused by death we were consoled and gave thanks to God for the privilege of having you, for all the role you played in our lives. I am speechless, but I am consoled that a believer, dedicated and a peaceful man like you, have not just died but transferred to continue with the saints. Oh daddy, who is going to call me Chiomam? Your death was a devastating blow to me.

My mind flashed back to the last time I called, you were requesting us to bring your grandchildren home during Easter holidays for us to stay together, before the covid-19 surfaced. I recalled the old sweet memories we enjoyed together, your smile, love, kindness, encouragement, tenderness and all the memories changed my life and outlook to life.

Bridge builder, I wondered why this wicked death should snatch you away from us suddenly with all your great attributes, I am however consoled that God who you served so well has called you and there is nothing we can do about it. For this reason, we are celebrating your passing on to glory, instead of mourning, in hope you are in a better place resting in the bosom of the Lord.

Jee nke oma, onuobichie, a committed soldier, hardworking, honest and a disciplinarian of the truth, until we meet again to part no more.

Your daughter-in-law
Chioma kanu (nee nwosu)

Tribute to My Beloved Daddy; Mazi Emmanuel Kanu (Onuobichie)

Daddy! I have cried and cried not because you have gone to be with the saints but because I did not get a last chance to tell u how much you mean to me and how much I love you. When I was told you were hospitalized, Uche said to me "God is in control". I told him that I will be in Owerri on Monday to see u. I was bit uncomfortable but I was sure that u will be there for me even if it was just for 5 minutes. I never imagined for one second that I will not meet you alive. I feel so vulnerable now I don't have you to hide under. Who will I call when I need an advice? I thank you daddy for teaching me the principle of life that has led me this far today. Thank you for teaching me that "integrity" can never be exchanged with money. Thank you for teaching me that the only road to success in life is "hardwork". Thank you for teaching me to always stand by the truth no matter the consequences. Thank you for teaching me the Importance of praying the Rosary every morning. Thank you for teaching me that one with God is "majority". We all love you but God loves you more. I am convinced that you have taken your seat among the saints.

Adeiu!! Adeiu!! Daddy until we meet to part no more.
Love Always.

DOZIE and RITA

Oh Daddy!

Your passing unto glory is still like a dream to me, because I could still feel your presence, I could still hear your last words; you told me that you will keep managing your health while you wait for God's time, that God has been faithful and that you are grateful to Him for thus far He has brought you, this alone has been my consolation.

Daddy in the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death. There is only one happiness in this life, to love and to be loved. Life ends, but love doesn't. Knowing you was a wonderful thing and becoming your daughter in-law was more wonderful. I remember when I became your daughter in-law, you told me that I am a blessing to you and I have become your last born, never for one day did you treat me like a daughter in-law, you have been a father to me since then. I will always love you and there is no goodbye for us, you will always be in my heart.

Daddy it's so sad that you couldn't see Akunnia, you longed to see her and even told me that when she arrives that I will bring her home for you in December. You said she will not come by road; that you will take care of her means of coming home by air (we both laughed) little did we know that God has His own plan. In her I will always remember you, how lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard. I have kept asking myself this question, "How can the dead be truly dead when they still live in the hearts of those who are left behind?"

Daddy the journey doesn't end here. Death is just another path, one that we all must take, go well Daddy until we meet to path no more.

Your daughter-in-law
Stella Ngozi Kanu
(Star)

AN INHERITANCE TO HIS CHILDREN'S CHILDREN; a loving tribute to our Grand Pa.

King Solomon writes in proverbs 13:22 “a good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children”.

Papa left us an inheritance of Education. He was quite vast in academics and could connect to many fields of study. Papa had a strong faith in the power of Education; for him it's a tool for transformation and liberation from physical and mental poverty.

My brother Somtochukwu and I (Chisom) schooled in a Catholic Boy's Secondary School in Owerri City, while our parents live in one of the North Central states. Papa and Mama never failed to attend our School PTA meetings and visiting days not until time started to take its toll on his health. Our fellow students and teachers admired their love and commitment because virtually no other grand parents attended those meetings.

We spent short holidays with Mama and Papa in Owerri. Those holidays were filled with memorable debate and academic discourse.

Now that Papa is gone, things will never be the same around here. But we promise to be our best in school.

“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children”. Papa left us an inheritance of hard work. Like he would always say “a hardworking man can never go hungry”. Papa abhorred laziness. He believed that every second in life counts and should be judiciously and productively engaged. He used to say that a young man who has direction and focus in life should not sleep for more than (6) hours and he made sure to chase us out of bed each time we slept more than he considered necessary. No one loiters around in Papa's house. He would always find a way to engage us.

A strict and firm man Grand Pa was. He meant well. Now that he's gone, we see how much Grand Pa means to us.

: *“A good Man leaves an inheritance to his Children's Children”* Papa left us an inheritance of decency. He was very particular about decency in speech, dressing, behaviour and morals. His neatness was second to none. He liked white clothings and they sure looked good on him. A handsome clean man Papa was.

Now that he is gone, his favorite back chair in the sitting room, where he usually sat with his legs crossed leaves us with so much to remember.

You were our Grand Pa, now our Angel. He is still keeping an eye on all of us and so we will make sure you like what you see.

Adieu Grand Pa.

Grand Children,

Chisom, Somtochukwu, Uchechukwu and Onyinyechi, Achor.

TRIBUTE TO OUR HANDSOME GRANDPA, CARING AND LOVING GRANDFATHER

Jointly, we write this tribute with my siblings: - is this a dream, that my beloved grandpa is gone. We can't believe this; we can't believe that you are gone so soon, oh! Death why, how could you be so wicked to snatch our grandpa away from us. Grandpa you are a man of distinct character and quality whose contribution to the development of our family is well acknowledged. We wished death hadn't come, so you can enjoy your grandchildren, you thought us many good things before your death.

Papa, you always helped people in times of need. Papa we hail you, you are three much. We all love you but God loves you the most. You told us to always be focused on our studies as being educated is the best thing we can do for ourselves and be obedient, honest and straight forward in all we do. You were an extraordinary grandpa.

Papa you were the best Grandpa in the world, Grandpa you are an epitome of love, hospitality, an embodiment of a good Grandpa, worthy of emulation. You had a strong faith in God. You lived a total life of sacrifice. Who will call me Ikennaya, my younger brother Emma and my kid sister Kosi (Nwa'ahuruanu). Papa our Mummy missed you so much. She can't do without you. We all need you here on earth, but God needs you more than we need you. Goodnight, Kachifoo Grandpa till we meet to part no more, we know you are now a saint in heaven.

Adieu Greatman! Adieu-our Hero!! Adieu the best Grandpa in the whole World!!!

Your grandchildren,

Ikechukwu Kanu jr.

Kcee Emmanuel Kanu jr.

Kosisochukwu Kanu (Nwa'ahuruanu) as you fondly called her, because she was born a day before Ikeji.

SIR E. N. KANU: A TRIBUTE

The shock we had at the receipt of the news of Mazi's demise was like the devastation of a bird shot in mid air. In our quandary, we stood and queried ... Death, where is thy sting, Grave where is thy victory? Quite frankly, death should have lost her sting for Sir E.N.Kanu.

To us, he was as precious as onyx. Mazi was an erudite academic and a consummate school master who taught in the three rungs of the academic strata. He was meticulous about details and the Neo-classical ethos of order, restraint and decorum guided what he did. In the classroom, he told, explained, demonstrated and inspired.

Sir E. N. Kanu had a standard and an overflowing charisma that was very infectious. He loved and strove for excellence. As mediocrity, sloppiness and double standards disgusted him. His disciplinary tendencies were salutary and breath-taken. Mazi's qualities were legion and difficult to capture in a sentence. He was our model and our hearts bleed that death had chinked our armour.

Mazi was our pace setter. He was the first graduate in Kanu Nwankwo family and thence set the gambit for the family academic odyssey which had flowered into a professor, associate professor and Ph.D holders.

Sir E. N. Kanu was a devout Christian and a veritable Church man who clung tenaciously to his Catholic faith. He was a Knight of the order of St. John's International and lived by the sensibilities that order prescribed. He had a title as a pillar of the Church and numerous others that attest to his commitment to Church work.

In sum, he was God fearing, hardworking, resilient, respectable and reputable. He will be greatly missed. According to S.H. Longfellow and I quote:
Tell me not in mournful numbers

Life is but an empty dream
for the soul is dead that slumbers
and things are not what they seem.

Adieu Onuo-Obichie, rest in peace until that resurrection morning when we shall meet to part no more. Good night!

Kenneth N. Kanu
(Obiechina)

Dr Francis A. Chuabunwa

Dip. Npthy, H.Dip. DHMS, PGD, M (ACU), Ph.D. (India), MHMA, MNACAMA
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Tribute To My Late Uncle Mazi Emma Nwafor Kanu

Struggling to cope with my grief on your death, finding words to write or to describe your outstanding personality became a heavy burden of responsibility to me.

*I watched you painfully battling to leave in the hospital but, **it is the will and wish of God you serve that you transform.***

I have so many wonderful memories to hang on to, you were a role model and a friend, your guidance and love will carry me through to the end of everything.

An astute lecturer, Christian to the core, his kindness and honesty was enigmatic.

Mazi, I will miss you, your smile and love, I will take consolation in the good feelings of our memories.

Goodbye "Mazi" we will meet again in the day of resurrection to part no more.

Dr. Francis Amaobi Ochuabunwa



Tribute to Daddy E. N. Kanu

I think it is a pretty daunting task to squeeze a befitting tribute to an icon like Sir. E.N Kanu on a page. I think a book would have been more appropriate. Sir. E.N Kanu was a man like no other, a father to all and an unapologetic disciplinarian. My earliest memory of his disciplinary prowess was when I visited Yola on holidays in the late '90s as a very naughty teenager experimenting with smoking. Somehow, he found out that I was smoking cigarettes; he summoned me to one of those after-morning prayer panels with Sir E.N Kanu presiding. Believe me; you don't want your case treated in one of those after-morning prayer panels. He did not beat me; he did not shout on me, but I left that meeting feeling worse than someone who was tortured by SARS. The things he said to me that morning reformatted my brain and has resonated with me to this day.

Daddy Kanu's love for education was unprecedented. He was always ready to support anyone around him to achieve their academic and career aspirations. Apart from that, he was always willing to have those courageous conversations that made you feel you have not given your best yet and also made you believe you can reach the skies only if you tried harder. I remember having one of those conversations with him in his seating room in Arondizuogu several years ago. I had informed him that I had graduated at the top of my first-degree class in Chemistry. He congratulated me and then went ahead to ask what I wanted to do after my National Youth Service. I went on to tell him how I was going to get a high paying oil company job, take care of my parents and siblings, and solve all the problems of the whole world. He listened very attentively and smiled at me. When I finished, he cleared his throat and asked me a straightforward question. What happens if you don't get one of those oil company high paying jobs? I didn't have an answer to the question, so he started one of those conversations you avoided as a young adult but also needed to have. As an educationist, Mazi carried his classroom with him everywhere he went. He taught me there and then, the theory of alternative plan. He told me that while I worked on my high-paying job plan, I should go back to school and get a Masters's degree because, as he put it, I was still half educated at that point. To cut a long story short, I ended up using my alternative plan. The essential part of Mazi's mentorship was that he checked in with me every step of the way to make sure I was working on one or both of you, my plans.

Daddy, as we all called him, lived a good life. He was compassionate and loved to have people around him. He worried and cared about everyone's success. Throughout my Ph.D. degree in New Zealand, He will call me intermittently and ask specific questions about how my research was going and offered much-needed advice and words of wisdom. When things became tough with my research, and I felt like giving up, I remembered that Mazi was waiting to hear that I have completed my Ph.D., So I knew giving up was not an option.

I can still remember the joy in his voice the day I called to tell him that I had completed my Ph.D. That is who Sir E.N Kanu was. A man who derived so much joy in helping people succeed.

In the last conversation, I had with him on his sickbed. He said, referring to himself, I am fortunate, God has richly blessed me, and I replied we are luckier to have had a father and a mentor like you.

We will miss you, Daddy, but we believe that we will meet again to part no more.

Adieu; Onuaobichie!

Mazi Obinna Okpareke Ph.D.

Tribute to a Mentor

With grace and strength from God, who directs and protects life, I stand to proclaim with deep sense of sorrow that my guardian "Daddy" as I call him has truly gone to meet his maker. Words alone cannot fully describe your impact in my life and my family taken together. You supported me through life like a tree trunk supports its branches. You gave me the greatest gift any father could give a son. You not only taught me how to make a disciplined home, but you lived and let me watch you do it. You are a great disciplinarian, a philomath of academic excellence and on these we built our successes. In losing you Daddy, we lost a great blessing, a good teacher, and a motivator. I really feel great sense of loss but I know you are in a better place where there is no more pain, where the purest form of peace abounds. With a solemn heart, I say farewell as you rest in the lord.

Okechukwu Okpareke

Tribute to a great Daddy

Oh!! what a brief moment with great Daddy. What a highly reputable gentle Daddy. A disciplined, learned father with a wonderful home. You are rare to get. I personally confided in you and you absorbed me but death never allowed us the opportunity. You're a devoted Christian to the core, produced a Catholic Priest, a Sacred Heart member, a Knight together with your wife and have trained all your children in the same way. Daddy, may God reward you by opening wide the gates of Heaven for you. While my Father (Chief Hyacinth Ohuabunwa) had gone earlier before you, Daddy you stood his gap immediately in ensuring peace and love. But this is an unfinished project because death has put everybody in the dark. Daddy I, UK feels the deep pains of your demise mostly b/c you knew our plans and discussions. You were in the best position to do the needful. I miss your calls, your care for us esp Mama in her mourning cloth etc. Death, Why? Today, my prayer is that you rest in Peace with the Lord. Farewell lovely Dad, till we meet again.

Eucharika Nnenna Ohuabunwa.

TRIBUTE TO ONUOBICHIE

Death why choose to take the man whose representation to Kanu's and entire Okoli Idozuka's family is immeasurable?

Onuobichie's determination in life is worthy of emulation. Mazi, you almost saw yourself out of school with the little help of your Uncles, not minding the hitches and ups and downs of life, you made it to the top. That's courage and determination.

You made me to understand that there is no limit to what one can achieve, your words of encouragements and supports restored hope to me when I was deported from South Korea in 2017. Mazi Onuobichie, you made me to understand that "Dimkpa n'ada ugboro asaa binichaa ugboro asaa".

No doubt that your words of encouragement and fatherly advice will surely be missed. I'm not ready to say goodbye forever now, but death is an inevitable end that must come when it must come. Goodbye Onuobichie as I take consolation in the fact that your spirit lives on. May the Almighty and Merciful God grant your gentle soul eternal rest, Amen.

KANU CHRISTIAN
Isi-Obi Okoli Idozuka
Ancient Kingdom

Tribute to Papa, My Icon

"Sorrow comes in great waves...but it rolls over us, and though it may almost smother us it passes and we remain." - Henry James.

My Grandpa was a real icon. Someone who always wants to attain the greatest of heights in everything he did. In all my life I have never seen someone as hardworking and dedicated as him.

His love for education is immeasurable. Papa until his death loved reading. Nothing gets past him without him reading it. I remember when I installed a rechargeable fan for him, and was planning on explaining the manual to him when he wakes from sleep, only for me to come back later and papa started teaching me all that was in the manual. I was so surprised.

Or is it his love for the things of God? Heaven certainly is so full of joy. Its just a pity that I didn't get to spend enough time with you. So many things I could have learnt. Papa was a humble man, he never liked to be the center of attention. In life and now in death, he wouldn't want us to focus on him. He wouldn't want us to focus on the sadness of his death, but instead focus on the happiness in our lives. He would want us to appreciate each other and our future. Learn from the legacy he leaves behind.

Although we will miss him, his smile, his pranks, his love, we take consolation in the good feelings of our memories. I love you Grandpa, until we meet again.

Rest in the bosom of God almighty!

Michael Nwankwo



Daddy

We thank God for our Daddy for he was a wonderful DAD and father inlaw. DAD your life was an example for many other people and we never see you angry, in any situation you still maintain your smile. Daddy was a real respectful father in his community and his society. Our father achieved alot and trained alot of great people today. Daddy was a peace maker and a real example of a loving father. He never got tired of helping people around him even those he knew for the very first. We would have loved for you to stay more with us Dad. We never knew our July 2019 vacation will be the last, me and my family will miss you. We really loved you but God loves you more. Rest in the bosom of the Lord.
(À Dieu DADDY)

Allen/Evelyn Tabot for family



Tribute to Grandpa

Grandpa was a strong man.
His ways could tell you the number of experience he had over the years.
His words spoke wisdom.
His nod was an approval of a job well done.
His smile had always made me smile every time.
He never stopped to correct a wrong doing irrespective of who you are whether young or old.
Most importantly a lover of knowledge and intelligence, and valued Education.
The death of papa reminds me and makes me understand what St. Paul says in Phillipians 1:21 "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."
Papa I will miss you so much, but yet I console my heart that u rest peacefully in the blossom of the lord.
I will always remember you as a living and your wise words will guide me
Most important, I will never forget the lesson on the importance of "Common Sense" in ones life.
I will miss u papa and will remember your impact in my life.

Rest in peace.

Yvonne Dian Tabot

TRIBUTE TO SIR MAZI EMMANUEL N. KANU - ONUO OBICHIE BY HIS COUSIN IFEANYI OKORO UMEZURIKE (Nwadiana bu eke).

Nnamochie, I want to thank you through this medium for waiting for me to see you and have a final interaction with you before you journeyed to your zone of rest- heaven.

You were a tree of life and those of us who perched on your branches enjoyed life in abundance.

You pulled out drowning people who raised their hands up. Your slogan was that promising brains must not waste especially when pursuit of academics is concerned.

I know we are many and are all appreciating you.

I remember through my discussions with you that you left nothing undone and so have genuine course to be happy as we join the Okoli Idezukas as on the other side of his dynasty.

You sponsored fathers and their sons in education not even in thinking that a father must always take responsibility ọ na abu nri agwughị n'ọku aka ọ na-ezuike (if food in the bowl does not finish ,will fingers rest? (always your thinking). Those who shed tears of blood because of your exit, were the “ofekes”(loafers), who did not know when 'nku ụkwa' (bread fruit firewood) was shared. You made yourself/talents available for the needy to tap from by all who cared.

As for me, we have a sign of relief as there was only little amissed. With a wife that cared till the end, a human sacrifice to God, intellectual Juggernauts to man the rear, why should benefactors like me not shout Hurray! We have arrived. Onuobichie, Sir,E. N. Kanu,Nwankwo Okoli Idozuka,may your gentle, generous soul rest in perfect peace.

Tribute to Sir Emmanuel N. Kanu

Daddy, I so much remember all the stories and words of encouragement you gave to me when things were so bad for me. Your words of encouragement were backed up with actions of empowerment.

You made me to understand that every man, when determined can change his destiny from bad to good.

You motivated me by the story of how you started, and how you excelled. A smooth operator and noiseless.

It will be noted that from the first time I started knowing you; when you took our elder sister Cecilia as a wife till when death struck I have not heard or seen anyone who would claim to have quarrelled with you.

The most surprising issue was when you took my first daughter, chinenye, to Yola in Adamawa State and enrolled her into Federal College of Education, without collecting kobo from me for her academics.

Daddy, you proved yourself a father and a role model indeed.

In everything, we give thanks to God. But it may sound better to say that we who you touched our lives are sad over your departure.

When I last visited you, you were sound but I did not even know you will leave this simple World soonest.

May God receive your blessed soul in peace . Amen.

Nnaemeka Ikejimba

A tribute by Rev. Fr. Anthony B. Zabbey, OSA

To Him Who Became

My encounters with you were brief; the impressions you left on me were prolonged. I had hoped for a bit of panic in your presence, but you appeared with an easy cordiality. Who could have imagined that a man's hopes moved from mere possibilities to actualities, from a longing to hold to a beauty to behold? The struggles of life were for you a testimonial of character. May tears not lengthen your absence; let them welcome your unseen presence.

Three events constantly teach me about your becoming. In 2002, I first visited your home in that humid town of Yola. When you learned that I was a young student on some missionary apprenticeship, you immediately reminded me that "the shortest distance between two points is a straight line", indicating that honesty is more tasty than honey. And in 2015, in the midst of your bereavement at the funeral mass of your late daughter, you said to me that "the God of the day is still God in the night", a message whose lesson is deeply theological. The conferral of professorship on your son, the Revd. Anthony, in 2017 gave me another opportunity to meet with you. Your citations of Shakespeare were flawless but what endures is the ride from Umunede to Owerri. From history to economics, you explained the need for one to be familiar with his/her roots since "we all have a home". I have not failed to recall that you were teaching me about identity.

Sir, you can no longer respond to me, to my greetings. Yet every word to be written by your children will function as a memento of yours. You became their hero. Every instance of success in business by your children will go back to you, because you taught them that hard work is better than inherited wealth. You became their rock. Each time that your widow will look at your photos, you will be missed because you became the right man for her.

As your body is being lowered into the grave, I feel sad that your parting gift to everyone is silence, an absolute silence. You had shared your life with us. We shall remember not to forget that there was once a man who became Pa Emmanuel Kanu. To you and for you, I say those two Greek words which made you a man of faith: *kyrie eleison*.

Every bright dawn has its own dusk: "Baba kanu" as we used to call you, your own dusk has finally come. We are not mourning because your dawn was bright enough for us to marvel at its brightness. We remember the advice you used to give us, everything you said was focused on us going further in our education. We kept that to mind and we are happy we did. This legacy lives beyond you. Rest on BABA KANU.

Dr. Awodoyin Francis,

Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola,
Adamawa State.

On behave of N.C.E. 1993 Set from F.C.E. Yola Adamawa State.

TRIBUTE TO A NOBLE BROTHER, MASTER AND FRIEND

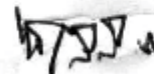
It was with great shock and pain that we received the news of our brother's death that Sunday morning. He phoned sometime in August to inform us of his travel to the village for the annual Iriji Festival. While we were expecting to hear of the return to Owerri the next day was that he had detoured to his maker.

Emma, you were to me a master and close friend, the relationship blossomed, and later brought both families together for over 62 years. We first met at Xavier Teachers' Training College, Bende in 1958. I had come in as first year student while you were in the second year. On your appointment as the Senior Prefect of the School, you chose me as your College boy. Your guidance and direction through the school and beyond kept influencing me in life and later in the choice of my present profession. I shall ever remain grateful.

Though we lament your physical departure and absence but you shall remain evergreen in our minds. We pray that God would reward your endeavours, services and faithfulness to Him while on earth.

May He console your dear wife, children and the entire family.

*Adieu my brother
Adieu my master
Adieu my friend*



Hon. Justice A.O.H. Ukachukwu (RETD)



UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS, IGBO & OTHER NIGERIAN LANGUAGES

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Date: October 10, 2020

Mr. Uche Kanu
Dept of Industrial Design
Modibbo Adama University of Technology
Yola

TRIBUTE TO OUR BELOVED FATHER AND COLLEAGUE: MAAZI EMMANUEL NWAFOR KANU, KSJI

With mist feeling of joy and sorrow, my family and I received with rude shock, the news of passing on to glory of our father and colleague, Mz. Emmanuel Nwafor Kanu on that fateful day of 29th August, 2020 hence we commiserate with his family members in this time of grief. 'Joy' because of a life well lived to the glory of God that will make us share in his dogged-life experiences; and 'sorrow' for we will miss his physical presence.

Until his death, Maazi, as I fondly addressed him while in sonority he responded E.S., retired in 2007 with immense contribution to the service of Federal College of Education, Yola as Head of Educational Psychology Dept., Dean, School of Education and Deputy Provost, amidst membership of numerous sensitive College Committees. Such Committees included Chairman, Ceremonies Committee; Chairman, Teaching Practice Committee to mention but a few. He also belonged to numerous professional associations like Association of Educational Psychologists, Nigerian Association of Educators and National Development, an accredited member of Teachers Registration Council, just a tip of the iceberg.

Maazi was an acknowledged and assiduous educator and educationist as seen in his checkered profile mentioned above. He loved with passion hard work and industry, especially in academics as evident in not only his wife and children, some of whom belong to the academia but also in his mentees as well as all and sundry that came across his way, and who may probably be present or absent today to bid him farewell.

As a pathfinder and a repository of Igbo culture, he founded the Igbo Association, F.C.E. Yola and as the pioneer Chairman, he saw to her well being until his return to his home-stead, Ndị Akụwanta, Arondizuogu. Also, as a leader of the Association, he maintained an emulative leadership character role of a prime mover, a peace maker and an adviser that would always be remembered by his associates. A feat he relentlessly demonstrated until his demise, for while in his homestead, he would call to know how you are doing, counseling where necessary not only to the Igbo in FCE, Yola but also to those back from that sojourn.

In service to God, he was not found wanting, he like the Biblical Hannah mentored one of his sons to the revered service of God as a Reverend Father. His penchant for good things made him strove to identify with his fellows in times of joy and sorrow. Those who knew him to the roots will bear this testimony to the fullest. Maazi, I will miss the sonority that had greeted your response of E.S. any time I called you Maazi. He would add, *soro ha dọkụwa maka na ọ bụ ihe oge wetara. I na-adọkụkwa bịa n'ofisị ka i were umụ ihe ga-enyere gi aka dọkụwa.*

Maazi, since the Almighty God, who knows better has decided to harvest you this time, we therefore, cannot question Him but rather to give Him all the glory and honour. On this note, therefore, we commiserate with the family members on this glorious exit, and enjoin them in prayers for his soul to rest in the bosom of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen!

Prof. E.S. Ikeokwu

MAZI NDUBUISI UCHE J. IROANOFE
(OGBUEHI-UGOCHINYEREZE)
Ndi-Akunwanta, Arondizuogu

7th September, 2020

TRIBUTE TO A WORTHY IN-LAW
MAZI EMMA KANU (ONUOBICHIE)

That evening phone call by my beloved sister, Ezinne, Lady Cecilia Kanu on Saturday 29/08/2020 by 07.51pm, informing me about the demise of our beloved in-law, Mazi Emma Kanu (Onuobichie), was not a palatable one indeed. It gave the rudest shock to me and my entire family. That Onuobichie has ceased to live, was quite devastating, considering the personality that was involved in this great lost.

Before Mazi became our in-law, I've known him during the civil war, from the corner as a teenager, and held him in great awe, when my name sake Ndubuisi Onwuka (Sukanduri) introduced him to me as a tutor at National High School, Arondizuogu. Eventually, he later married our sister, thus establishing a very cordial and permanent relationship with our family.

Of all our in-laws, Mazi Onuobichie was an exception, he integrated his in-laws into his family and ensured that everybody was carried along. He provided academic opportunities to those who needed it, and gave credible and reliable advice to parents, which guided and nurtured their kids to successful academic career.

Personally, the benefits I derived from Onuobichie cannot be quantified as they were quite profound. I still remember vividly in 1976, when I had my school certificate, but failed to gain admission to the university. Mazi's persuasion was instrumental to my accepting the offer to pursue a one year Pivotal Teachers Training course, which made me a professional teacher. Eventually, when I advanced in academic pursuits, Mazi was always available and provided enormous support and encouragement to ensure that the desired success was achieved.

At my Master's and Doctorate degree levels, Mazi's intervention was quite immense. All academic materials needed to enhance my research were adequately provided. Books, by eminent scholars, which are now extinct in the book-shelves, such great works by Adiele Afigbo in various works, J.C. Anene, J.D. Fage among others, were made available to me without reservations. Mazi was also quite resourceful, his submissions during my field works contributed immensely to my successful completion of my thesis with great ease.

Very frank, upright, sincere and blunt. He would speak his mind very frankly in any given issue without taking sides. He would also tell you, your faults in the face without embellishing the truth. How are the mighty fallen! It is quite unfortunate that it happened at this time. We can not question God, as all philosophical postulations acceded to Shakespeare's assertion. "That life is but a walking shadow, a poor player which struts and frets his hour upon the stage and is heard no more". Since death a necessary end which must come when it will come, according to Shakespeare also, has given us a terrible blow when we least expected. I urge you my sister and the entire family to bear this great loss, with equanimity, even though irreparable, God knows it all, and will never forsake you in this period of grief.

Adieu, our beloved In-law
Onuobichie, gaan nke oma

The Great academic and Scholar, may the good Lord be merciful unto your soul.



Mazi Ndubuisi Uche J. Iroanofe
(Ogbu-ehi Ugochinyereze)
For Iroanofe Family