



Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka

November 13, 1942 - January 23, 2025

Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka peacefully passed away on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at the age of 82, surrounded by his loved ones. He was born on November 13, 1942, in Accra, Ghana, to the late Pastor David Narter and Eunice (Okumko) Agboka. Dr. Agboka was a twin and one of seven children, spending his early years traveling across Africa due to his father's evangelical work, with Accra being their home base.

After completing his studies at Bekwai Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School, Dr. Agboka pursued higher education. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Cape Coast University in Ghana. Eager to continue his academic journey, Dr. Agboka moved to the United States, where he earned a master's degree at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI. He then went on to receive a Ph.D. in Manpower Planning and Labor from Michigan State University (MSU). While at MSU he also taught high school math in Lansing.

It was at MSU where Dr. Agboka met his beloved wife, Aufwiedersehen "Vete" (Brooks). They were married for 49 years. After briefly working at General Motors' Fisher Body in Pontiac, MI, Dr. Agboka and his family moved back to Accra in 1977, where he worked for a United Nations agency. Two years later, they returned to the U.S., where he held various roles, including Assistant Training Director for the Michigan Department of Mental Health and Administrator for the Michigan Department of Labor's Health and Safety

Division.

Dr. Agboka's career at the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Association (MIOSHA) spanned many years, and he retired as Regional Director. In parallel with his work at MIOSHA, he also taught mathematics at Oakland Community College. His passion for education continued even after retirement, as he became a math teacher at Pontiac Central High School, where he inspired countless students. In 2017, the Omicron Alpha Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, established the "Perseverance Award" scholarship to honor his commitment to the youth of Pontiac, for high school seniors to receive scholarships.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Agboka and his wife lived in Bloomfield Hills, MI, where they welcomed family members and helped them transition to new lives in the U.S. Despite enduring two massive strokes in 2005 and 2008, Dr. Agboka's resilience and the loving care of his wife allowed him to live with comfort and joy, never losing his enthusiasm for friends, family, or his favorite sports teams – especially the Ghana Black Stars, Detroit Lions, Detroit Pistons, and MSU Spartans.

Dr. Agboka was a devoted Christian who lived by the principles of the Bible. While he was deeply honored by the many accolades he received throughout his life, he was most proud of his unwavering commitment to enriching the lives of young people, his family, and his community.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Aufwiedersehen "Vete" (Brooks) Agboka; his parents, Pastor David Narter and Eunice (Okumko) Agboka; and his brothers, Israel (Nora) Agboka, Captain Edmond Agboka, Dr. Ebenezer (Lorna) Agboka; and his sister, Jane (Major Kwame) Ntim-Gyakari.

He leaves cherished memories to his three children, Eric Tettey Agboka,

Joseph Ofori (ElFreda) Agboka Jr., and Grace (Gregory) Griffin; his four grandchildren, Joseph Omari Agboka III, Amaya Iman Agboka, Amira Reese Agboka, and Pearl Lillian Ohui Griffin; his two brothers, Dr. Japheth (Juliana) Agboka and David Agboka; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka Memorial "Perseverance Award" Scholarship. Please make checks out to the OAA Foundation and add Dr. Agboka in the memo. The mailing address is Omicron Alpha Alpha, P.O. Box 98, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303.

Service Date: Friday, January 31, 2025

Family Hour: 10:30 AM

Service: 11:30 AM

Location: Detroit Burns Seventh-day Adventist Church

10125 E. Warren Ave, Detroit, MI 48214

Live Stream available on YouTube: @BurnsSDAChurch

Interment: 2:00 PM

Location: White Chapel Memorial

Park 621 West Long Lake Road, Troy, MI 48098

Repass: 3:00 PM

Location: Pontiac Southside Seventh-day Adventist Church

182 S Sanford St., Pontiac, MI 48342

Cemetery Details

White Chapel Memorial Park Cemetery

621 West Long Lake Road
Troy, MI 48098

Previous Events

Family Hour

JAN 31. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Burns Seventh Day Adventist Church
10125 East Warren Avenue
Detroit, MI 48204

Funeral Service

JAN 31. 11:30 AM (ET)

Burns Seventh Day Adventist Church
10125 East Warren Avenue
Detroit, MI 48204

Tribute Wall

TM

“ I remember when I first walked in to his classroom in 2000 he was open and ready to teach and made me work hard but I loved it what a great teacher he was much loved and will be missed

Tyrone Mason - February 04, 2025 at 02:51 PM

JA

“ Julie A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

Julie A. - January 31, 2025 at 12:07 AM

VF

“ Viola Crayton, Jo Samuel & their families purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



Viola Crayton, Jo Samuel & their families - January 30, 2025 at 11:37 AM

KM

“ Karen Morgan purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



Karen Morgan - January 30, 2025 at 09:08 AM

TL

“ Though I never got the chance to meet Dr. Agboka, I’ve had learned some great lessons and wisdom from the stories Ofori has shared over the years! Prayers for the family during this difficult time.

Tory Landry - January 29, 2025 at 10:18 PM

TL

“ Tory Landry purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



Tory Landry - January 29, 2025 at 10:10 PM

TL

“ Tory Landry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

Tory Landry - January 29, 2025 at 10:10 PM

CT

“ Casting/Components/Ultium/Stamping team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



Casting/Components/Ultium/Stamping team - January 29, 2025 at 08:38 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



January 29, 2025 at 05:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

January 29, 2025 at 05:48 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



January 29, 2025 at 12:47 PM



“ From Engmann and Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



From Engmann and Family - January 29, 2025 at 12:39 PM

FF

“ From Engmann and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

From Engmann and Family - January 29, 2025 at 12:39 PM

TR

“ Tent Partnership for Refugees purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



Tent Partnership for Refugees - January 28, 2025 at 08:57 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



January 28, 2025 at 06:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

January 28, 2025 at 06:10 PM

KD

“ God bless your family during this difficult time. Our prayers are with you. Joyce, Karmen, and Keisha Davis

Karmen Davis - January 28, 2025 at 05:53 PM

TG

“ *The Fosu Family in Ghana purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.*



The Fosu Family in Ghana - January 28, 2025 at 12:30 PM

TG

“ *From: The Fosu Family in Ghana planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.*

The Fosu Family in Ghana - January 28, 2025 at 12:30 PM

JA

“ We remember Dr. Joseph Agboka (Tseko Tse as we called him, the younger twin), far back in the mid 1970s when the family came to live at South La Estate (Kaajaano).



It was Dr. Joseph Agboka, his wife Aufwiedersehen “Vete” and children who welcomed our late sister Elizabeth Okutu Appeah into their home when she went to the USA the first time. We remember how she recounted the warmth, love, care, and support they gave to make her stay comfortable.

Though he lived abroad, Dr. Joseph Agboka didn't forget family. Any time he came to Accra, Ghana, on holidays, he visited us at South La Estate (Jomo). He never forgot his camera when he came, so he could take pictures with us. He was soft-spoken and very gentle. He would be fondly remembered.

Sincerest sympathies from the Okutu family, South La Estate; Adjo (Elizabeth's daughter) and brothers; to his children, and to Dr Japheth & David Agboka.

Rest peacefully.

Josephine Appeah Akuoko - January 28, 2025 at 02:33 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

January 28, 2025 at 02:31 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



January 28, 2025 at 02:31 AM



“ "Merlin" Weihan Ni planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

"Merlin" Weihan Ni - January 27, 2025 at 08:53 PM



“ "Merlin" Weihan Ni purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



"Merlin" Weihan Ni - January 27, 2025 at 08:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

January 27, 2025 at 12:51 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.*



January 27, 2025 at 12:51 PM



“ *ForevermoreFrom Erasmus,Jean&Trevor Otoo purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.*



ForevermoreFrom Erasmus,Jean&Trevor Otoo - January 27, 2025 at 12:18 PM



“ *RODGER & LISA ALEXANDER FAMILY sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka*



RODGER & LISA ALEXANDER FAMILY - January 27, 2025 at 11:12 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.*



January 27, 2025 at 10:31 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

January 27, 2025 at 10:31 AM



“ Nancy A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

Nancy A. - January 26, 2025 at 09:35 PM



“ Karen Walker lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka



Karen Walker - January 26, 2025 at 05:36 PM



“ Cynthia Blackwell lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka



cynthia blackwell - January 26, 2025 at 03:03 PM



“ May the love, trust and belief in God comfort the Agboka family and friends at this time.

Martha J. Clark - January 26, 2025 at 12:34 PM

JA

“ So sorry for your loss. The Agboka family is in my prayers during this difficult time.



Jackie Apel - January 25, 2025 at 09:56 PM

LW

“ Laurita Washington lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka



Laurita Washington - January 25, 2025 at 08:46 PM

TO

“ The Oliver’s planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

The Oliver’s - January 25, 2025 at 05:25 PM

TO

“ The Oliver’s purchased the Divine Light for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



The Oliver’s - January 25, 2025 at 05:25 PM

GC

“ Gillray C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

Gillray C. - January 25, 2025 at 05:17 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

January 25, 2025 at 04:40 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



January 25, 2025 at 04:40 PM

JJ

“ John J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

John J. - January 25, 2025 at 03:57 PM

JJ

“ John J. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.



John J. - January 25, 2025 at 03:57 PM

JA

“ Jason A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

Jason A. - January 25, 2025 at 02:28 PM

MI

“ MicheleRiceTaylor lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka



MicheleRiceTaylor - January 25, 2025 at 02:08 PM

MM

“ Myra Milton lit a candle in memory of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka



Myra Milton - January 25, 2025 at 01:43 PM

MM

My condolences to the family

Myra Milton - January 25, 2025 at 01:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.

January 25, 2025 at 01:11 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.* ”



January 25, 2025 at 01:11 PM



“ *I have always admired my brother-in-law, “Dr. Joseph Agboka” such a powerful man. He has traveled the world. He made my sister “Vete/Hun”* ”

Happy. To the children, I’m sorry for your loss, but please find strength in knowing that you have had two great parents that were so proud of you. I love you, Eric, Ofori, and Grace.

Aunt Mae

Nettie Brooks Roche - January 25, 2025 at 12:21 PM



Dr. Joseph Agboka was in the doctoral program with me at Michigan State University in the 1970s and since then, along with his late wife, Vete, we remained family friends until now. Joe was resourceful and loved and cared for his family. My sincerest condolences to Eric, Ofori and Grace for your loss. May his soul rest in peace.

Prof. Daphne Ntiri and spouse, Prof. Jean-Claude Quenum

Daphne Ntiri - January 28, 2025 at 05:49 AM

TF

“ *The Duong Vo Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.*



The Duong Vo Family - January 25, 2025 at 12:18 PM

SB

“ *Sandra and Isaac Babu-Boateng purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dr. Joseph Larwerter Agboka.*



Sandra and Isaac Babu-Boateng - January 25, 2025 at 11:17 AM