

### Mr. James Y. Gabriel's Obituary

Our beloved father, Mr. James Yanquoi Gabriel, Sr. was born from the union of Mr. Yarkpazuo Weefar and Mrs. Kebeh Weefar on September 6, 1940 in Fessibu Town, Zorzor District, Lofa County, Liberia. He began his early childhood education in Fessibu. James' uncle, Mr. Stanley K. Johnson, noticed how smart his nephew was and encouraged him to move to Suakoko, Bong County.

James walked more than 93 miles to Bong County to pursue his goal for higher education, but his dream was not able to be realized in the way he had hoped. He became a salesman. After several years of hard labor, James ran away to Monrovia at the young age of 15.

When he arrived in Monrovia, young James knew no one and found himself sleeping in an auto garage. The owner of the garage was an old Kpelle man who took him in and started training him. Still seeking education in any form, James attended an adult education program at night after working in the garage all day. Eventually, he decided to become a full time mechanic, a decision that would later pay off. Our father was an extremely intelligent individual and soon became the head student mechanic. At 17 years old, James became the assistant to the owner of the American Garage, later known as ITC Garage.

His excellent performance at the ITC Garage gained him employment at the Voice of America (VOA) sub-station in Liberia at the age of 20. James continued to work at VOA for 37 years and became Chief Mechanic and Machinist. While not formerly educated, his inherent intelligence was apparent and he became a mentor for some university students from the USA, Liberia and other parts of the world. During his 37 years of work at the VOA, he received many awards and honors. His employment there came to an abrupt end with the beginning of the civil war in Liberia in 1990.

After being displaced, Mr. Gabriel and his family were sent to a refugee camp in the republic of Guinea, West Africa, before eventually fleeing to Cote d'Ivoire (formally known as Ivory Coast). While there, this father was in contact with some of his children, namely Patricia W. Nukeh, Y. Tarold Weefar Gabriel, Garmai Gabriel and Lorpu Gabriel Lacey. He applied for the Refugee Resettlement Program and was accepted, but not all of his children were able to travel with him at that time.

Mr. Gabriel and wife, Korto, along with six of his children: David, Pewee, Garmai, Samuel, Lorpu and Togbah arrived in the U.S in 1997. Once there, this patriarch continued to work to find the rest of his children and relocate them to Iowa. Now in Iowa, the Lutheran Church of Hope welcomed he and his family. He found work with WOI Channel 5 as a custodian and worked until his retirement.

He is survived by his wife, brothers: Moses Weefar and Johnson Weefar; sisters: Lorpu, Kebeh and others; his children, grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. The late Mr. James Y. Gabriel, Sr. was an articulate, dedicated, loyal and hardworking family man. He was calm and fair but firm with a good sense of purpose and responsibility.

It is said that we are made from dust and to dust we shall return. Our late father has bowed to the call of God. His death is a great loss to his family, the nation, and humanity. We love you, dad, but God loves you most. Fellow Christians, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, here lies the mortal remains of our late father, Mr. James Yanquoi Gabriel, Sr. who was a loving family man, a professional mechanic, a gentleman, a worthy son of Liberia and the USA, a loving father, a caring husband and a Christian. The late Mr. James Yanquoi Gabriel, Sr., may your gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Amen!

### Funeral Worship Service

Musical Prelude	B2Y2 Music
Procession	Ministers & Family
Opening Hymn	My Hope is Built
Opening Prayer	The Rev. Michael Hurst
The Scriptures	
Psalm 90:1 - 10	The Rev. Dr. Emmanuel T. Solo
1 Thessalonians 4: 13 -18	Apostle Daniel M. Deisrael
Selection	VIP Choir
Prayer for the Family	Pastor Amos T. Poe Sr.
Tributes (2 Minutes Please)	
Lutheran Church of Hope	
Liberian Association of Iowa	
Lofa County Association of Iowa	
Family	
Mrs. Patricia E. M. Nukah, Daugther	
Mr. Gabriel Weefar, Nephew	
Mrs. Korto Gabriel, Widow	
Reading of the Obituary	Mr. James Y. Gabriel Jr.
Acknowledgements/Announcements	Mrs. Lorpu Gabriel Lacey & Mr. Sam Gabriel
Selection	Community Praise & Worship
The Eulogy	The Rev. Seth Martin Moulton
Final Viewing	
Closing Prayer	The Rev. Michael Hurst
Recession	

### At the GRAVE

Opening Song	Amazing Grace
The Committal	The Ministers
The Lord's Prayer	
The Benediction	

### Interment

Oralabor Cementary, 515 SE Oralabor Rd., Ankeny, Iowa

### Repass

Le Estrellita Event Center - 2134 E. Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50317