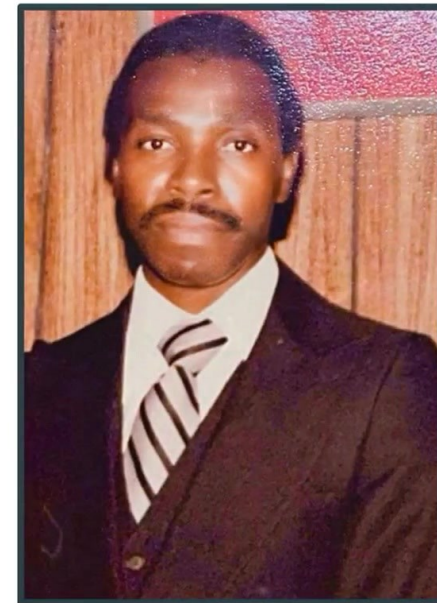
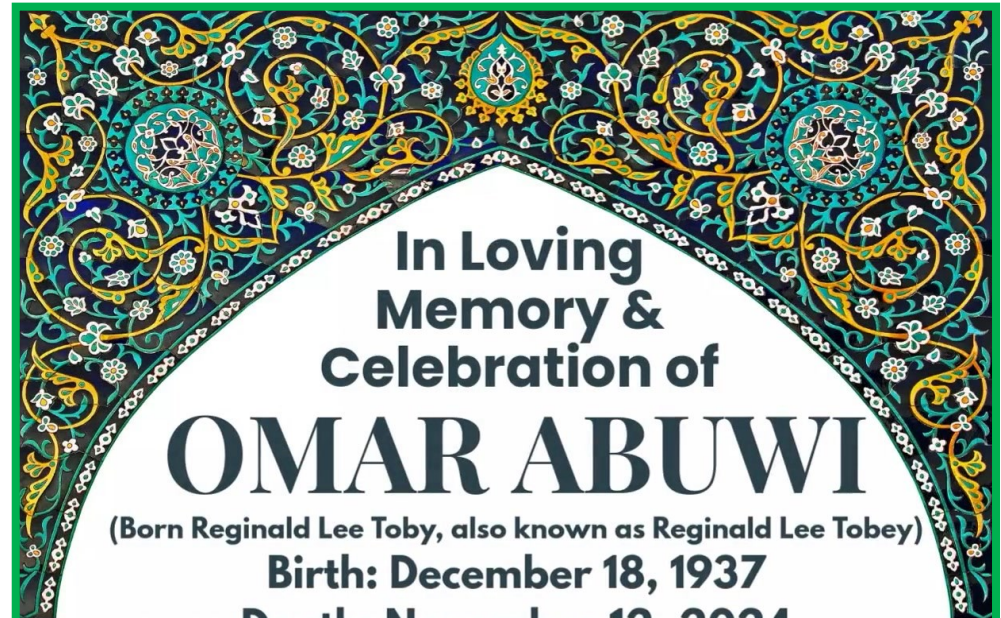




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Janaza (Islamic Funeral Prayer)  
Thursday, November 14, 2024 | 12:15 P.M.  
MASJID JIHAD  
117 East 34th Street | Savannah, GA 31401  
INTERMENT  
Greenwich Cemetery | 330 Bonaventure Road  
Savannah, GA 31404

***"Verily, unto God do we belong and, verily, unto Him, we shall return."***—

*The Holy Qur'an 2:156*

*Named Reginald Lee Toby at birth after the Caribbean doctor who delivered him, Omar Abuwi was born in 1937 in Waynesboro, GA, to Louise Small and Willie Toby, Jr. He was reared by his loving maternal grandmother, "Daughter," and older brother, William "Bill" Toby, Jr alongside a host of cousins and relatives.*

*After graduating from Alfred Ely Beach High School in 1955, he joined the United States Navy. While serving in the Navy, he attended Mountain View Community College, obtained his Aircraft Mechanic License, and graduated as the 10,000th student of the Aircraft Mechanic Flight Engineer School.*

*During his Navy career, he rose to the rank of Chief Petty Officer - Aviation and received a letter of commendation for his service during the Vietnam War. While serving in the Navy, he was exposed to the teachings of the Nation of Islam, as taught by "The Honorable" Elijah Muhammad, which offered the promise of freedom, justice, and equality for African Americans whose cruel treatment Abuwi had experienced due to racism in his lifetime.*

*Ultimately, in 1972, he ended his military service to pursue a life of spiritual devotion and service. He settled in Savannah, GA, and became an Assistant Minister in the Nation of Islam and Captain in the Fruit of Islam. He donated a portion of his severance award from the military to purchase the building that houses the first masjid in Savannah, GA, now known as Masjid Jihad.*

*Upon Elijah Muhammad's death in 1975, he followed the leadership of Muhammad's son, Imam Warith Deen Mohammed. His Islamic beliefs evolved to align with the teachings of "universal human excellence" of the religion of Al-Islam, as revealed in the Holy Qur'an and taught by Muhammad the Prophet (Peace be Upon Him). At that time, he also changed his name to Omar Abuwi, which Imam Warith Deen Mohammed bestowed on him for his commitment and service to the community.*

*After leaving the military, Omar began a new career as a letter carrier with the United States Post Service, a position he held for several decades. " Mr. Omar the Postman" was beloved by the young and old in the community he served and was well-known for his kindness and gentle nature.*

*Omar also served for over twenty years as an Islamic chaplain with the Georgia Department of Corrections, serving Coastal, Reidsville, and Wayne State Prisons and with the Chatham County Jail.*

*For over 40 years, Omar served various roles at Masjid Jihad, including on the Majlis as-Shura consultative board, as prayer leader, as Islamic studies teacher, and as custodian.*

*He fulfilled the fifth pillar of Al-Islam and made Hajj, the once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage to Mecca, in 2005.*

*A student of knowledge of all types, he could always be found with a book and was a serious student of religion, history, philosophy, and the physical on the Gullah Geechee culture in the Lowcountry of GA and SC. He was called on to present information about Islamic burial practices to medical professionals at local hospitals.*

*Married twice, he was widowed in 2009 following the death of his devoted wife of thirty years, Nimat Sabreen Abdullah Abuwi.*

*Omar was the proud father of nine children, whom he leaves to mourn his passing—five daughters (Regina, Tynetta, Bayyinah, Mahasin, and Firdaws) and four sons (Sadruddin, Munir, Shukree, and Mustafa). He was the grandfather of 19 and great-grandfather of 11.*

*With G-d's Name, The Merciful Benefactor, The Merciful Redeemer*

### ***Muslim burial rituals, the Muslim funeral prayer, & burial***

*We view an individual's loss as a loss to the whole community and not just to the family. Thus, Muslims are actively encouraged to attend any Muslim's funeral because of the very significance of such an event. Burial takes place as soon as possible after the death. The body is washed and dressed in a shroud by selected family and community members.*

*The Islamic funeral prayer, called janazah, only takes 3 to 5 minutes with everyone standing. Although the body of the deceased is placed at the front of the congregation, the funeral prayer is performed for the deceased to G-d and not to the deceased.*

*The Muslim community is obligated to perform the prayer; non-Muslims, however, are not obligated to participate.*

*The silent prayer has four sections, each transition marked by the leader announcing "Allahu Akbar" (meaning "G-d is Greater") and a motion bringing the hands to the ears, symbolizing listening to G-d.*

*The concluding action is to say "As-Salaamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullah" (meaning "G-d's Peace and Mercy be unto you") over the right and left shoulder. The silent portions of the prayer include prayers that praise G-d, recognize his omnipotence and majesty, ask for guidance, and pray for the soul of the deceased and the souls of others who have died.*

***If you are not participating in the prayer, please join us in making a silent supplication to G-d, asking Him to bestow His mercy and blessings on Omar's soul. We pray that G-d forgives him of his sins and grants him the highest levels of Paradise.--Amen***

*Following the ceremony in the prayer hall, the coffin or casket will be carried to the burial place, lowered into the grave and the grave filled.*

*The Imam will say final prayers before the mourners disperse. Immediate family will often remain for a while at the graveside to receive condolences from visitors.*