

A Celebration of Life



Pa Salvador Joseph Atem Tambe

Sunrise: September 26, 1942

Sunset: October 3, 2018



“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His faithful servants.”

Psalm 116:15

FUNERAL PROGRAM

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

PA SALVADOR JOSEPH ATEM TAMBE

(SEPTEMBER 26, 1942 - OCTOBER 3, 2018)

Wake-Keeping

Date: Nov 10, 2018

Time: 8pm - 2am

The Friendship Center

9055C Maier Road,

Laurel, MD 20723

Hotel Accommodation

Holiday Inn Express

14402 Laurel Pl, Laurel, MD

301-206-2600

Quality Inn

1 2nd St., Laurel, MD

301-725-8800



Contact(s)

Dr. Mrs. Mary Tabot

571-275-4276

Aarah Atem-Tambe

804-309-8913

Ntoh Atem-Tambe

804-389-5855



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

PA SALVADOR JOSEPH ATEM TAMBE

(SEPTEMBER 26, 1942 - OCTOBER 3, 2018)

Thu Nov 15, 2018

Time: 4pm - 6pm

Family and Friends gathering
at Mrs. Veronica Ashu-Ayem's
residence

(Opposite Premier Pharmacy)

Kumba

Fri Nov 16, 2018

9am - 10am: Removal of
corpse at Kumba General
Hospital mortuary

11am - 1pm: Funeral Mass
at St. John the Evangelist
Parish Kumba

2pm - 3pm: Reception



Contact(s)

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Sat Nov 17, 2018

Time: 8am

Departure of casket for burial
at his final resting place in
Ebanga, Manyemen

Sun Nov 18, 2018

Time: 9am

Holy Mass at St. Martin de
Porres Catholic Church
Bokwango, Buea

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

BIOGRAPHY



Mr. Salvador Joseph Atem Tambe was the first of five surviving children to Pa Tambe Moses Makia and Ma Rahael Arrey Makia, both parents of blessed memory, born on the 26th of September 1942 in Ebanga, Manyemen, Kupe - Muanenguba, South-West Region, Cameroon.



EDUCATION

Pa Tambe as he was known in Buea, or Pa Sal (or Pa Salva) as he was known among his family, or Angwa N'tu nuk (translated "the cat spilled the soup") as he was fondly called while at home in the village, had a great passion and zeal for education. His early school days were completed in the South West Region of Cameroon. He went to primary school in Mbakwa Supe, Konye, Meme Division. His secondary school days were completed at St. Joseph's College Sasse, Buea, Fako Division, Class of 1956, a phase of his teenage life he fully enjoyed and was always proud of. He had a great love for science especially in subjects like mathematics and physics. He later got a scholarship to continue studies in the United States of America where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (in May 1969) and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics (in June 1970) at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon; and a Master of Science in Communications Engineering at George Washington University, Washington D.C. (in May 1982).

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

In the 70s, Pa Tambe worked for over seven years in the Public Service of the Government of the Republic of Cameroon as a Communications Engineer.

In the late 70s and early 80s, his talent, skill, and experience resulted in his secondment to work abroad in the United States of America (USA) as a Member of the Technical Staff in the Communications Engineering Department at the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT) in Washington, D.C. He worked at INTELSAT for about eight years (1977 – 1985) before he returned to Cameroon to resume duties as a Communications Engineer in the Public Service where he would serve another twelve years (1985 – 1997).

Pa Tambe's strong science background and ability to pay attention to detail made him very effective in the work he did. He worked with great dedication and fortitude, accomplishing successful results for multiple national and international projects. During his years of service (from 1985 – 1997), some of his notable work as a Communications Engineer in the Cameroon Public Service was associated with the work he did at the Higher School of Posts and Telecommunications in Yaounde, Cameroon where he taught Mathematics, Electronics, and Satellite Communications, and also trained Engineers and Technicians. His last duty post was Delegate of Posts and Telecommunications in Buea where he is remembered and fondly called as "Monsieur le Deleogue" till his passing by his erstwhile colleagues.



With all the knowledge, experience, and skill obtained through years of faithful service to Cameroon's Public Service, in 1997 Pa Tambe retired and moved on to create a consultancy, ACE-Engineering Enterprise. He also taught Mathematics and Physics on a part-time basis in the University of Buea, as well as Mathematics (from 2007 – 2008) at the George Wythe High School in Richmond, Virginia, USA. His teaching assignment at George Wythe High School was his last opportunity to spread his knowledge amassed over many years. Due to his love and passion for education, Pa Tambe always still

continued to pursue opportunities to teach and share his knowledge until the day of his death. As a result of his zeal for spreading education in

general, and Mathematics in particular, all who lived under his roof were home taught Mathematics by him.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL LIFE

Pa Tambe was married to Elizabeth Subi-Ngai Asobi; he was blessed with seven children - Elonge (passed away in 2003), Bisong, Arrah, Bakaw, Ntoh, Nkongho, and Njui. Pa Tambe spent a good portion of his life in Buea; he enjoyed serving at his local Catholic mission, at Bokwaongo, St. Martin de Porres. He was very generous and family oriented and loved helping his relatives and friends. He played an active role in the education of many of his relatives (his siblings and cousins, his children, his nieces and nephews, and other family friends), most of them also lived under his care.





He was a member of multiple social groups and a very active member of the Sasse Old Boys Association (SOBA). In his younger years he played soccer, tennis, and even did some boxing and judo. He loved to travel the world and keep up with the

news at a national and international level. If he was watching TV or listening to the radio, you could be certain that he was watching or listening to a news channel like BBC, MSNBC, CNN, etc.

HEALTH STORY

Pa Tambe was blessed with good health for most of his life. However, in his early 50s, he was diagnosed with diabetes. After this diagnosis, Pa Tambe worked hard to control his blood sugar through diet, medication, and exercise (running, jogging, and walking). Unfortunately, a few years before his death, he experienced more health challenges and complications due to his diabetic condition.

PEACEFUL TRANSITION

In his last year, he was hospitalized in August 2018 at the Kumba Divisional Hospital, South West Region, due to complications associated with a wound on his left small toe. He remained strong and courageous during his entire two month stay in the hospital, fully expecting to get well and resume travelling again which he loved to do. On the 26th of September 2018, he was in great spirits as he was so happy to see his 76th birthday. Seven days after his birthday, after a brief diabetic induced coma, he finally moved on to be with the Lord on the 3rd of October, 2018.

Pa Tambe is survived by his wife, six children, three grandchildren, three great grandchildren, a brother and three sisters, nephews, nieces, cousins, and a host of friends and well-wishers.

TRIBUTE – BY DAUGHTER

Dear Daddy,

I did not get a chance to choose whom I wanted my parents to be, but God gave you to me as my father. I would not have had it any other way if I could choose all over again from life's options. The things you taught me will remain with me forever. Because of you I learned the value of responsibility, accountability, generosity, hard work and education. You wanted me to grow into a fine young lady, and you were unapologetic about enforcing your beliefs on us, your children. Looking back through the years, I see that your intentions were good although they were so rigorously executed with an iron hand.

With your tough love you protected me, yet prepared me for the world, which is a place that I now know needs all the discernment, discipline and stamina a person can have to make life's best choices. Today I make those choices by myself without anyone to guide me or compel me like you did back in the day because I have learned the benefits of being dutiful and choosing to do what is right.

You always watched us from a distance. Whether it was from your favorite couch while we played as children, or from behind the gates of our house when we went out to visit as teenagers, or from within the crowd as we attended events to make sure we were behaving properly and dressed decently, we were always near and dear to your heart. You always pushed us to do better than our best; for you, even the best was not enough.

One of my last memories of you was the \$100 bill you gave me when I was leaving for school. With a firm handshake you told me, "Study hard because I love you." My last sight of you was when you looked through the window at me as the car drove me off to pursue my lifelong academic goal and career dream. During our last conversation you told me you would get well and come visit me in school, and you were very happy. Much happier than most of my memories of you as you handled the difficulties life threw at you with a clenched fist and an iron hand. You have not come to see me as you said you would; you will never come to see me now because you are in a better place. A place where you can rest from all the challenges and responsibilities of life. All we have left are the principles you taught us, and that is what we will remember you for. I know that from a distance you are looking out for me as you did so many times when I was growing up and one last time as I drove off to school. Watch me from the other side, and by God's grace, I'll make you proud.

Bye-bye daddy; rest in peace!

Arrah Atem-Tambe, Daughter of Pa Salvador Tambe

TRIBUTE – BY DAUGHTER

TRIBUTE TO MY DEAR DAD IN HEAVEN

Dear Dad,

You were an embodiment of some exceptional values which caught my attention and have consequently shaped my life. They are: focus, determination, discipline, hard work, frankness, generosity and a good sense of humour. **You voiced out your true feelings irrespective of whether or not you were wrong.** As such you could be read like a book since you had no time to pretend or better still you had no time for unnecessary drama. You were straight to the point and called a spade a spade. Anyone approaching you, had to adjust bearing this in mind. I remember in our tender adolescence, our friends would adjust their dressing when coming to visit at home and make sure they return to their homes early. During visiting days in Saker, some of many of my classmates will peep through the window to watch and if possible eavesdrop when you are correcting and advising us. Some even nicknamed you “Captain Vontrap” of the Sound of Music.

“Go to the ants, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.” Proverbs 6:6 was one of your most well-loved bible quotations that marked me and each time I read that portion of scripture I remember you. On the days, we failed to do the household chores, you would recount the following story: “... There was a task to be done and **Everybody** knew **Somebody** would do it. At the end of the day, **Nobody** did it because **Everybody** knew **Somebody** could do it.” Thereafter, the following questions will follow suit, “So tell me among yourselves, who is Everybody, Somebody and Nobody?” A loving father’s call to responsible adulthood.

I am and will forever be grateful to the Almighty God to have had you as my father since God makes no mistakes. Daddy, you forged character, discipline, determination and strong sense of purpose in me. In summary, you loved me and I want to once more thank you for the great sacrificial love which is undeniable.

Above everything else, what shall it profit a man if he gains everything and loses his soul? Your life is a story book with many huge volumes. Indeed God’s ways are not our ways and everyone has a

right to his or her mistakes but no one has the right to end-up with those mistakes else we shall not profit from Christ's priceless sacrifice on the cross.

Thus, I am so thankful to God for surrounding you with his love as you celebrated your 76th birthday, and also gave your heart to the Lord, renewing your commitment to Him (**2 Cor. 5:17**) in those last moments. This is the most beautiful way to end one's life that is why I sing this farewell song in joyful hope that if I too keep step with Jesus the Master till my last breath then I will meet you, my mum and the huge cloud of witnesses:

**In the sweet bye and bye, we shall meet on that beautiful shore
In the sweet bye and bye, we shall meet on that beautiful shore**

Daddy be rest assured, your legacy lives on: Rest In Peace.

Atem –Tambe Edith Bakaw épouse OWONA, Daughter of Pa Salvador Tambe

TRIBUTE – BY DAUGHTER

“I WISH I HAD A FATHER LIKE THAT!”

As I think about Daddy today, Psalm 139:14 comes to mind.

“I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

As I meditate on this scripture, I am reminded of how unique and wonderfully made Daddy was and I give God praise! So many great qualities come to mind. Daddy's intelligence and attention to detail are the qualities that immediately come to mind in this moment. I remember how observant he was! As a child, if I went out to play and came back with a wound, he would notice it immediately I came in the doors, even if I tried to hide it! If I went out with red slippers and came back with blue slippers, he immediately noticed that too! He noticed even the smallest detail and cared deeply for our well-being.

Daddy was fond of saying, “Should I give you a fish, or should I teach you how to fish? Instead, I will teach you how to fish.” Daddy was a teacher who was fully invested in our success – whether it was lessons in Maths, Physics, or simple and complex life lessons, he used every opportunity he had to teach and share knowledge.

Thank you Daddy for everything you taught me. I believe the Lord knows the people we need in our lives to help us and guide us along the way; He knows the right parents we need to train and teach us the things of this world. For me, the Lord chose You! There is no one who would have been able to prepare me for life and the things ahead better than you! The Lord chose very well and I am very grateful! Two significant instances come to mind that remind me of how blessed I was to have you as my father.

- The first instance, I was reminded of how blessed I was to have you as my father, was in Upper Sixth at Baptist High School (BHS) Buea, when I was writing the GCE Advanced Level. You came to visit me after I wrote each paper, patiently waiting outside for us to finish writing; anxiously waiting to hear feedback from me on how I wrote the exam. This was not a usual visiting hour, so you had to seek special permission from the school authorities to see me, but you went out of your way each time to do so. You did not only do this for me but for all my other brothers and sisters when they were writing the GCE Advanced Level as well. I remember feeling a little embarrassed at the time knowing that none of the parents of my friends were doing the same. However, there was a teacher of mine who was observing from a distance the entire time; and after I wrote the last paper, the teacher observed Daddy was waiting again patiently for me to finish writing so that he could find out how the exam went. The teacher waited for Daddy to go home after seeing me, then approached me asking (just for confirmation since he had already been observing Daddy all this while), “Did your father come to visit you after each paper?” To which I responded, “Yes.” Then the teacher said something I was totally not expecting, **“I wish I had a father like that!”** Wow! In that moment, my eyes opened to see how fortunate I was as I came to a better understanding of my father’s love for me!
- The second instance was at my brother’s graduation. Nkongho had finished his graduate degree and we had gathered together after the graduation ceremony to celebrate. I watched my Dad entertain the group of young men, Nkongho’s friends, all night long with jokes and stories of his youth. The room was full of laughter the entire evening. At the end of the

celebration, a good number of Nkongho's friends came to me and said, "I wish I had a father like that!" Wow! My brothers, sisters, and I have been truly blessed with a father like that!

The psalmist wrote in Psalm 90:10 that, "Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away." Your years came to seventy six, just a few years short of eighty, and I watched with deep admiration how you faced and overcame difficulty and challenges with great strength during these years gaining victory over your circumstances. I think you did alright... even better... I believe you did more than alright!

You fought the good fight and ran your race with faith and courage. And even in those last moments in your hospital room, you still carried the strength of a great warrior, a mighty man of valour! So rest in peace my dear Daddy, bye for now, till we meet again!

Ntoh Atem-Tambe, Daughter of Pa Salvador Tambe

A FUNNY MEMORY – BY SON

My Dad loved to talk about Maths, he could turn ANYTHING into a Maths discussion! And as I reflect on some of the beautiful memories we had together, I am reminded of this conversation between Daddy and me (in the presence of my sister, Ntoh).


Finally, sometime after graduate school, I had gotten a job in my field of study and I was excited to go to work that day. In a hurry, on my way to work...

Daddy: Nkongho wait! Let me tell you something.

Nkongho: ...

Daddy: Now that you have this job, it will be a good time to review your Maths notes...

Ntoh and I both stared at Daddy in confusion trying to figure out where he was going with this. Then about two seconds later...

Nkongho + Ntoh: 

We both realized the discussion was quickly turning into a Maths discussion!!!

Nkongho Atem-Tambe, Son of Pa Salvador Tambe

TRIBUTE – BY ELDEST GRANDCHILD

Dear daddy as we all called you. It is hard to write what I feel as the pain within me is so much ever since I received the news of your death. You were like a father to me from when I was a small girl up till now that I'm grown up. Your strict discipline molded me up to what I am today. Your demise has taught me how short life is. My children also feel so sad for losing their great grandpa whom they were so proud of to their friends of being a bush faller. We will all miss you greatly as we also remember your jokes. Who will call me Ma Enjema again? Thank you daddy for making a positive impact in my life.

Adieu daddy and may your gentle soul rest in God's blossom.

Your grand daughter, Enjema and kids.

TRIBUTE – BY SISTER

We are all strangers in this world and one day we must go back to our Creator. We did not know it will be so soon. We will miss you, our chief adviser. May your soul rest in perfect peace.

Your Sister, Ma NTOH ELISA

TRIBUTE – BY BROTHER

My dear Brother, you have been a Pillar in the Family right from the days of your youth. You have fought the good fight, you have finished your race.

Like the biblical Joshua, I promise to steer the Family, as one Flock, in the direction of Canaan, God being my Helper.

Bye for now, till we meet again, to part no more.

Nfaw BITA-TAMBE, Junior Brother of Pa Salvador Tambe

TRIBUTE – BY SISTER

My brother was a great man; a great man is known by his deeds. My brother single handedly brought up his siblings as he was the first in the family. Later on, he brought up his children.

Lord we thank you for his life on earth. We pray that you grant him a new and beautiful life.

Adieu my beloved brother.

Mrs. Veronica Ashu-Ayem, Junior Sister of Pa Salvador Tambe

TRIBUTE – BY NIECE

Uncle Sal,

I thank God for giving me the privilege of having to know you better during these last years. My interactions with you were that of a peaceful coexistence given all that was often said about Uncle Sal. You always listened and trusted my sense of judgement. I will miss the long conversations over the phone. You never hid your feelings. Thanks for always checking on my progress and family every time you came for a visit. For those you have left behind, we should remember that forgiveness is trusting that God is the God of justice. It's acknowledging that God knows the truth and allowing Him to be the judge, because He is the only One who knows the whole story. May you find rest in the bosom of the Lord till we meet again.

Adieu Uncle Sal

**Judith
(Niece)**

TRIBUTE – BY NIECE

Uncle Sal,

My heart grieves realising that you have passed on. It is difficult to put into words the pain I feel, but all I know is that you will be dearly missed. You were like a second father to us and effectively stepped in to play that fatherly love whenever need arose, with the disciplinarian touch that was inherent to your nature. You regaled us with jokes and you were always in symmetry with culture. In times of crises or misunderstandings within

the family, you were always the voice of authority and you always made use of your outstanding intelligence to arrive at the best solution.

By your death, you have left a vacuum in the family and you will live in our hearts forever. You might be gone but will never be forgotten. Rest in Peace Uncle.

Your niece, Olivia Esongabang Eware.

TRIBUTE – BY NIECE

Dear Uncle,

I feel like I'll wake up one day and this will all be a dream. You'll still be here chatting away as you always do. You were a solid foundation for our family, most of us would have passed through your care in some shape or form, from our mothers to us the children. You were a guiding hand the best way you could, advising us and being strict with us during those teenage years when we thought we knew it all. I remember when I stayed with you preparing for my A' Levels. You would get me to study Mathematics all day if you could. You always said, "You cannot be a scientist without being good in Mathematics". Those words have never left me as I have gone through my academic and professional journey. Thank you for being my first true example of the benefits academic tenacity can bring to one's life. I still remember talking to you when I finished my PhD, I'm glad I made you proud.

Rest in peace now Uncle Sal, your work is done, your legacy lives on.

**Your Niece,
Dr. Enowmbi Ashu-Ayem**

TRIBUTE – BY COUSIN

SALVADOR JOSPEH ATEM TAMBE

The great man of Ebanga / Manyemen.
The prolific football legend of Prisons of Buea,
Who played the Cameroon cup alongside Chief Mosenge et al.
The great Mathematician.
The Telecommunications wizard.
The true product of Oregon State University and George Washington University.
The man of the people.

Sleeping in peace at the Kumba District Hospital Mortuary.
Adieu. Greatness.

Wesley Agbor, Cousin of Pa Salvador Tambe
Posted on Facebook on October 24, 2018

TRIBUTE – BY SOBAN

Goodmorning Gentlemen. For those who never had the opportunity to meet and share a moment of the very cheerful, kind, dedicated and always smiling Soban SALVADOR TAMBE, I wish to say he was a member of the Soba Buea Mother Chapter branch and will religiously leave Manyemen for Buea whenever he was in Cameroon to attend our meetings. Pa Salvador (as we always called him) was so full of life and will make us laugh out our lungs from the majestic steps he takes when entering the meeting (voluntarily 5 minutes late for us to savour of his nyanga waka) to his description of the trajectory he took to be with us. He was an encyclopaedia, as he recalls all the names of his classmates and events that took place in his days in Sasse College and there after. Pa SALVADOR will dance and crack jokes with the entire house but when an important issue was brought on the table, he was resolute to make sure that the most reasonable decision triumphs without hurting any Soban. I thank God Almighty to have given me the opportunity to have met and exchanged life's stories with our beloved father. Rest In Peace Pa SALVADOR and may the God Lord fortify the family during this difficult moment.

Barrister John Kameni, SOBAN
Posted on the FAKO Lawyers Association Forum

THANKSGIVING

We thank God for Pa Tambe's life. We thank God for the gifts and talents he gave to Pa Tambe, gifts and talents that Pa Tambe so generously shared with those who came into his life. We are thankful for the things he did, the lessons he taught, the love he gave. The examples he showed will remain forever in our hearts.

We thank God for His many blessings bestowed on Pa Tambe and his family. Pa Tambe will be missed greatly.

Today, we celebrate the life of Pa Tambe. We thank you for sharing in the celebration of his life. May Pa Tambe's soul rest in perfect peace.



“The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.” Job 1:21

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the Tambe and Atem-Tambe family, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all our extended family and friends for your prayers, your words of encouragement, your love and support, and your presence here today.

We could not have done this without you! We love and appreciate you very much! May the Lord bless you exceedingly abundantly above all you can imagine or think for your love and kindness! May the Lord grant you journey mercies to your various travel destinations.



THANK YOU!

Written by the Children of Pa Tambe (on behalf of the entire family)