



Damus Amazulu "Doc" Kenjyatta

August 24, 1931 - February 26, 2018

Damus Amazulu Kenjyatta, 86 years of age, departed this life on Monday, February 26, 2018, in Dover, Delaware. He was a retired Professor of English and Theatre at Delaware State University, with a 30 year tenure, which spanned from 1976 to 2006. His birth name was Damon Wilbur Brazwell, Jr., but for cultural and philosophical reasons, he legally changed it to Damus Amazulu Kenjyatta. Damon/Damus, is lovingly called "Doc" by students, friends and family.

Born in the small town of Newport, Arkansas, to the union of Wealthy and Damon Wilbur Brazwell, Sr., Damon Brazwell, Jr., began his journey through life. He was the eldest of seven siblings. In 1951, Damon graduated from the "Newport Colored School"...later renamed "W.F. Branch."

Upon graduation, he joined the United States Air Force and served for four years. Afterwards, he received a bachelor's degree from Philander Smith, a small Black College in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he majored in Philosophy and English and also sang in the College Chorus. Later, Damon relocated to Cleveland, Ohio, where he experienced unexpected hardship. Finally, a much better life emerged, which led to his writing of an Autobiographical Novel entitled Brecht, Weill, and "Three Penny" at Karamu House. In his book, he tells how he worked his way up to getting acting jobs there at Karamu, without having any prior formal training or experience in theatre or music. Damon credited his teachers at the Newport Colored School for giving their students

the opportunity to be surrounded by art, dance, music, and theatre, in a broader sense, with assignments to participate in the Friday evening class play performances and annual play festivals. With his theatrical knowledge and expertise, he graciously gave back to his hometown school, by using local talents and putting on play productions, written by him, in support of the school's reunions.

At Karamu, Damon acted on stage as well as performed in Opera productions, which opened up many doors for him to receive more acting jobs and opportunities to work with many well-known professional actors and actresses, such as Adolph Caesar, Chris Christopherson, and John Hillerman, to name a few. After Karamu, Damon studied theatre at Howard University in Washington, D. C., and following, received his Master's Degree in Fine Arts from the Catholic University, also in D. C. In 1979, he received a Doctorate of Education at Teachers College from Columbia University in New York, New York. Doc was also privy to become Head of the Department of Theatre Arts at the Montgomery Community College in Maryland. This later led him to teaching and directing at the New York Shakespeare Festival and then on to being a Professor at Delaware State University, Dover, Delaware.

During Doc's journey through life, he wrote, produced, directed and presented a multitude of poems and plays. Many manifested as class productions at Delaware State University. One production in particular, "Aristophanic Broads" gave homage and received noteworthy accolades as it was so magnificently performed in New York City at the Apollo Theatre!!

Damus was preceded in death by his mother, Wealthy Brazwell; father, Damon Wilbur Brazwell, Sr.; sister, Marilyn Brazwell Brooks; brother, Douglas Brazwell, and son, Udomo Kenjyatta.

Doc leaves to mourn his daughters, Gail Walker (Donald), Jackie Blake

(Leon), and Afrika Kenjyatta; sons, Claybron Brazwell, Njombe Kenjyatta, Sikani Kenjyatta and Eusi Kenjyatta; sisters, Montrula Brazwell, Millie Wilkes (Rev. Arthur Wilkes) and Vonzell Hood (Stanley); brothers, Mark Brazwell and Manuel Brazwell (Teresa); a host of grandchildren, great grand children, nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends.

He also leaves an unfinished book entitled, "Port of Ports". The book is centered around his home town of Newport, Arkansas. There are plans for family members to finish and publish it.

Doc was truly an Iconic Figure with a mind of Pure Brilliance in the theatre and all around. He leaves an Astounding Legacy and a Huge Footprint as a Professor in the Theatre and English Department at Delaware State University.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Damus Amazulu "Doc" Kenjyatta, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

Tribute Wall

GR

“ My dear wife and I would like to extend our belated condolences for the loss of your loved one. We send this condolence with the sure hope the Bible provides all of us at difficult times like this. As recorded in the Bible, God's only-begotten son, Jesus promises that one day he is personally going to bring back to life all those who have died (John 5:28, 29; 11:43, 44). As death is an enemy to us, it is also an enemy to Almighty God (1 Corinthians 15:26). For that reason, as well as others, He promises to remove from this earth FOREVER all the pain, suffering, wickedness, and DEATH that mankind has had to endure for thousands of years (Revelation 21:3-5; Psalm 37:10, 11, 29). What a glorious day that will surely be! It's a reality and a sure hope that we can trust in because it is absolutely impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2). My wife and I sincerely encourage you to look up and meditate on these noted scriptures in your own Bible (1 Timothy 4:15, 16; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17). You will surely be encouraged and comforted by the marvelous hope our Grand Creator has in store for us (John 17:3). Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

George & Christine Ragusa - March 10, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Dear family,

I'm so sorry for the loss of your beloved Doc. May the God of all comfort give you peace to help you cope during this difficult time. We look forward to seeing our dead loved ones again in the righteous paradise here on earth very soon. Acts 24:15; Psalm 37:29

LM - March 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ I would like to offer my condolences for your loss. I hope you will find comfort in knowing that Jehovah, the God of all comfort, will soon eliminate all grief and provide permanent consolation when “all those in the memorial tombs will hear [Christ’s] voice and come out”! (John 5:28, 29) God promises that “he will do away with death forever, and the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away the tears from all faces.” (Isa. 25:8) Then, instead of having to “weep with those who weep,” all earth’s inhabitants will “rejoice with those who rejoice.”—Rom. 12:15.

M Jones - March 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Sorry For Your Loss!

John 14: 1

Thomas & Libby Widgeon - February 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ The death of a loved one is never easy to deal with. May you find comfort in Jehovah's promise of a wonderful future on an earthly paradise found at Revelation 21:4, 5 and Psalms 37:11, 29.

I am very sorry for your loss.

Deborah Cook - February 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ I am so sorry for your loss. May your precious memories of your time together help you through this time of sorrow and you can find strength in God’s loving promise at(Isaiah 41: 10.)

JoyceA - February 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ With heartfelt sympathy for the loss of your loved one. The Bible indicates that soon ‘death will be no more’ (Rev. 21:4) and those who have died can live again. These are promises from God, who cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Please take comfort in this wonderful hope as you look forward to its grand fulfillment.

Bruce Wingfield - February 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ Though I know that this is a difficult time for you, my hope is that you will be comforted from God's inspired word the Bible. John 5:28,29 and Revelation 21: 3,4 gives hope of a future resurrection and the complete elimination of death, pain and mourning. Under Jesus' kingdom rule we have this and much more to look forward to. Please accept my deepest condolences. For more scriptural encouragement please go to jw.org.

anouch - February 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM

IR

“ Sorry for your loss of a loved one. Read Isaiah 41:10 for words of comfort and peace.

Irene - February 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM