



## Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa

April 16, 1939 - August 20, 2024

La necrologie Antoine Kabwasa: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VEww8Oakm vY39kIFxTF-HcGLapVkJ3Bi/view> ]

Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa passed away peacefully on August 20th in Toledo Ohio at the tender age of 85 surrounded by family and friends. He was loved and will be missed.

Antoine was born in 1939 in a little town called Kikwit in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He had 4 brothers and 2 sisters. He went to the Kinzambi Catholic School in Kikwit. He was among the first scholars selected by the newly independent Congo to go to the United States to study. He came to the US to study at the University of Michigan where he obtained a Certificate in Communications. He continued his studies at the University of California, Los Angeles and University of Redlands in California, where he received his Bachelor's degree in Government International Relations and Economics in 1964. He received a Master's from the University of Wisconsin in 1973. He completed a two-year Ph.D. program in Education at the University of Ontario, Canada where he completed all courses but the dissertation in 1976.

From there, Antoine had a rich career, working for the United Nations, UNESCO branch. Antoine's assignments were dear to his heart because they

would lead him to participate in the development of African populations whom he loved. As a UN diplomat, he visited many countries throughout every Continent. One of his missions was to work for the Economic Commission for Africa, in Addis Ababa Ethiopia as the Program Specialist and Senior Officer for Manpower and Training Development in 1977. After his retirement from UNESCO, he also gave various lectures in the Humanities Department at the University of Toledo.

He spoke 5 languages, KiKongo, Lingala, French, English and Spanish. He was also a storyteller, a poet and an author. One of his works, Pali-Pali, the Bird, and the Mask: a tale from Zaire 1979 received a L' Harmattan award. It is a story that will be enjoyed for generations.

Antoine was the patriarch of the Kabwasa family. When he left for university studies as a young man in his twenties, it was always important for him to uplift his siblings and fulfill his father's dream to see the Kabwasa family travel throughout the world. Antoine supported his whole family. He took care of his late mother Therese Ntsh Olol - Mulolo and father Francois - Nkum Abui, his late brothers Etienne Ngom Otem and Michel MbungMpash as well as his late sister Ampyng-Marie. He also took care of his surviving siblings Constant Nga-Ambun(Madeleine), Janvier Ngun-Etiet and Eugenie Anzang-nkie.

Antoine was married to Angele Kadima-Nzuji, with whom he spent 38 beautiful years. He passed away 2 days before their wedding anniversary.

He is survived by his spouse Angele, 7 daughters: Florence Kabwasa-Green (Richard), Celine Kabwasa Woods (Brian) Andrea Kabwasa, Yannick Mubenga Lubamba (Bob), Sandrine Mubenga Lufungulo (Safari) Adole Kabwasa Krysewsky (Daniel) and Soleita Kabwasa, 2 brothers: Constant (Madeleine) and Janvier, 1 sister Eugenie, his 12 grandchildren (Troy, Taylor, Amara, Kasem, Brison, Etienne, Nahano, Imanga, Osime, Hanah, Nathaniel,

Nyota), his 27 nieces, nephews, and great and great- great nieces and nephews.

Antoine passed away in peace and now he is with the Lord.

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd., Toledo, OH on Friday, August 23rd from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Funeral Services will begin on Saturday, August 24th, in the mortuary at 9:00 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Corpus Christi University Parish, 2955 Dorr Street, Toledo, OH. Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery.

Please view Antoine's video tribute and leave a condolence message at [www.CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://www.CoyleFuneralHome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Resurrection Cemetery

5725 Hill Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43615

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **23**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614

## Funeral Mass

AUG **24**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Corpus Christi University Parish  
2955 Dorr St  
Toledo, OH 43607

# Tribute Wall

EF

“ *Fond memories of a amiable friend at UCLA decades ago.*

Ed Ferguson - September 20, 2024 at 01:51 PM

PA

“ *Dear “Oncle Antoine”, always smiling, full of joy, wisdom and jokes... We will miss you. Love ” et courage à toute la famille”.  
Véronique PANDANZYLA*



PANDANZYLA - September 07, 2024 at 10:04 AM

FA

“ *Famille Beugré ( Olivia et Arnaud) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.*



Famille Beugré ( Olivia et Arnaud) - August 28, 2024 at 08:15 PM

FA

“ *Famille Beugré ( Olivia et Arnaud) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.*

Famille Beugré ( Olivia et Arnaud) - August 28, 2024 at 08:15 PM

ST

“ *My sincere condolences to all Kabwasa, on behalf of my family Wasaulwa ( Zaire Sep)you were our neighbour at Kikwit and you really inspired us on the value of education.  
Let your soul rest in peace.*

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**Stephanie** - August 25, 2024 at 09:01 AM

AK

“ *Bien cher Antoine , tu as vecu avec élégance, partageant la joie de vivre et l'amour tout autour de toi.  
Tu nous quittes aujourd'hui sans un mot, laissant la tristesse et l'amertume consumer nos coeurs.  
Adieu cher Antoine, que ton âme repose en paix.*

*Alexandrine et Arthur KADIMA-NZUJI et enfants*

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**Alexandrine et Arthur KADIMA-NZUJI** - August 24, 2024 at 10:53 AM

GT

“ *Il etait un ange pour moi.*

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**Guy Impem TSHIBOK** - August 24, 2024 at 09:37 AM

PB

“ *Pour la grande famille Kuyu et Bisimwa purchased the Purple Open Rose with White Mums (Silk Cemetery Flowers) for the family of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.*



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**Pour la grande famille Kuyu et Bisimwa** - August 24, 2024 at 06:29 AM

PB

“ Pour la grande famille Kuyu et Bisimwa planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.

Pour la grande famille Kuyu et Bisimwa - August 24, 2024 at 06:29 AM

AN

“ ALLEGRIA NTUMBA purchased the Purple Open Rose with White Mums (Silk Cemetery Flowers) for the family of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.



ALLEGRIA NTUMBA - August 24, 2024 at 03:57 AM

AN

“ ALLEGRIA NTUMBA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.

ALLEGRIA NTUMBA - August 24, 2024 at 03:57 AM

IN

“ Irene N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.

Irene N. - August 23, 2024 at 11:52 AM

LW

“ Lisa W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.

Lisa W. - August 23, 2024 at 10:00 AM

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



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**COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS** - August 23, 2024 at 09:59 AM

IL

*There are Oh SO MANY FOND MEMORIES The 6 Lihau-N'kanza girls have with whom we called "Tonton" which in French means a non-biological Uncle but an Uncle nonetheless, throughout our teenage years for the two oldest and Tonton's oldest as well and our pre-teenage years for the five remaining ones, leading well into our teenage years....! This, as our Dear long ago deceased Beloved mother & Tonton were amongst the first Congolese 🇷🇵 co-doctoral students from then Zaire The Democratic Republic of Congo in Canada. .... Then, several years later as high level colleagues & friends at U.N.E.S.C..O in Paris, France.... My two oldest sisters & I, were the first ones to meet Tonton Antoine Kabwasa, introduced by our Beloved Mother during the Summer Season of our very first Academic year in boarding school in France at our mother's office . We went to have lunch together & he spoke about his three daughters who were living in California. Later, in the summertime, we were invited to his home for lunch & he showed us his family's & daughters' picture albums as well as the series of not just books but of his wonderfully illustrated Congolese/African fairy tales he, himself had written, which personally opened my eyes & huge wandering imagination to storytelling as I was just totally in awe....! As our mother was going back and forth to Vienna, Austria, we would stay at his apartment for a couple of week-ends, where he made us his then favourite breakfast: plain omelettes & french toasts with maple syrup! ...It is needless to state here that my two oldest sisters & I, absolutely devoured ourselves & ate every single bite if it...! The next Summer season, Tonton Antoine very much liking & appreciating how our mother would report my two oldest sisters' & my own adjustment to our French boarding school located in Normandy, he decided to suggest to all three of his daughters to join him in France, mentioning my 3 sisters & I, and to have the opportunity to learn how to speak French absolutely fluently & moreover attend an excellently rated boarding-school.... As the two youngest: Céline & Andréa Kabwasa were already deeply involved in Basketball at their school, only the oldest: Florence signed on his invitation .... She therefore spent what I believe to be an entire month in Vienna with us, to get to know Mother The Lihau-N'kanza brood but more importantly, since she was my oldest sister's age, both parents had accurately thought that this would be a great pre-school summer bonding time for her & that my two oldest sisters could talk to her about the "ins" & the "outs" of boarding school & that since we were all multilingual and especially absolutely bilingual in English & French, that Florence could most certainly brush-up on her French as she had in fact started to do so.... That first year for Florence & second year for my two oldest sisters & I, , not only did they all three become Besties but they also were each other's roommates.... Also, our Dear mother had placed my three youngest sisters in the equivalent boarding school but for below pre-teen children for my youngest three sisters.... Whenever my Dear Beloved mother was away on a diplomatic mission, It was*

Tonton who would come and pick them up.... When Tonton would be on a diplomatic mission, Florence would be picked-up with us & stay with us at our apartment in Paris just as we all spent an entire week to 10 days with her father & her, for a school vacay at his apartment.... We would later meet Tonton's two other daughters at that time: Céline & Andréa, who would periodically come for the Summer Season & we all spent some time together upon their return from their first part of their Summer vacay in The DRC 🇷🇵.... The Spring Season right after The COVID Pandemic, I spent 8 days in Los Angeles & its surroundings & was elated that Florence was able to join me for three days.... We talked, laughed & reminisced about the past & those innocent days between our families as well as about our respective fathers.... I mentioned to Florence how amazed I was at Tonton's penmanship as a Children Story-teller even as a pre-teen & how he Most Assuredly was one of my Inspirations for Story-Telling alongside my mother & a few others & how even more amazed I was as my sister Anne had informed me several years ago, that Tonton had financed the whole building of concrete beick houses in his village of origin, in lieu of mudhouses...!!!! When Anne informed two of my sisters & I of Dear Tonton Antoine's Transition, which happened to fall exactly on the same day as my oldest sister's birthday, my heart was gutted & ALL of the fond memories of him & of the times we spent together as two families have been streaming through my thoughts for these past days alongside with tears of Great Sadness.... Lastly but Most certainly not Least, the last memory I wish to share of Tonton is that of him coming to our mother's house in Kinshasa (the capital city of the DRC), to humbly & kindly introduce his 2nd spouse & show the video of his nuptials.... In hindsight, I never remember Dear Tonton to have been upset... On the contrary, I always saw him in Good Spirits & laughing.... On behalf of ALL of The Lihau-N'kanza sisters: Our Deepest & Sincerest Condolences go to The Entire Kabwasa Family .... Dear Tonton has Most Certainly earned his wings in Heaven, where he was greeted by Our Most Highest, surrounded by his ancestors & all of His Dear Beloved Ones, who transitioned above prior to him as HE is truly presently resting in Eternal Peace 🙏🕊️🕊️🕊️🕊️🕊️🕊️🕊️🙏  
.....!!!! Most Affectionately: Irene Lihau-N'Kanza.

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Irene Lihau-N'Kanza - August 23, 2024 at 12:53 PM

LD

“ LCCS Placement Department purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.



LCCS Placement Department - August 23, 2024 at 07:55 AM

JM

“ Jean-jacques M. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.



Jean-jacques M. - August 23, 2024 at 06:13 AM

JM

“ Jean-jacques M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.

Jean-jacques M. - August 23, 2024 at 06:13 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.



August 23, 2024 at 02:28 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Antoine Nsang O’Khan Kabwasa.



August 22, 2024 at 10:45 PM



“ Bisselele Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Antoine Nsang O’Khan Kabwasa.

**Bisselele Family** - August 22, 2024 at 10:45 PM



“ La famille Kadima-Nzuji purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Antoine Nsang O’Khan Kabwasa.



**La famille Kadima-Nzuji** - August 22, 2024 at 07:31 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Antoine Nsang O’Khan Kabwasa.



August 22, 2024 at 06:15 PM



“ I would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Antoine.  
He and my late husband George Sherife-Kekulah spent many hours planning programs for The Lighthouse Community Center

Lottie Sherife-Kekulah - August 22, 2024 at 05:22 PM

SR

Celine and Brian and family have my deepest condolence 🙏, may his legacy continue to be with you. May God strengthen and comfort you and your family, in Jesus name I pray, Amen. Love ❤️ you Celine and Brian. RIH Mr. Antoine .

Sheila Reed - August 23, 2024 at 07:08 AM

ME

“ Maman Marie Esale purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.



Maman Marie Esale - August 22, 2024 at 03:08 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.



August 22, 2024 at 11:52 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.*



August 21, 2024 at 09:15 PM



“ *Manu & Malilo KAPAPA planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Antoine Kabwasa.*

**Manu & Malilo KAPAPA** - August 21, 2024 at 09:15 PM



“ *Hugh Donohoe purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.*



**Hugh Donohoe** - August 21, 2024 at 07:03 PM



“ *Rebecca Kabwasa purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Antoine Nsang O'Khan Kabwasa.*



**Rebecca Kabwasa** - August 21, 2024 at 05:18 PM



“ *Rebecca Kabwasa planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Antoine Kabwasa.*

**Rebecca Kabwasa** - August 21, 2024 at 05:18 PM