

In Loving Memory of Joseph L. Mercy, Sr.

April 27, 1937 – May 18, 2022



SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022 - 10:00 A.M.

Holy Rosary & St. Michael's Catholic Church

52 Smith Street • Elizabeth, New Jersey

Father Adain Dieuseul, Officiating

Obituary

Joseph Lanier Mercy Sr. (Mercius, Djo or Joe) was born on April 27, 1937, to Agelia Andreus and Joseph Mercy. He was one out of seven children. Joe -as affectionately known- has always claimed both Boudette and Danache in Dessalines Haiti as his birthplace.

Joe enjoyed every role he embodied- that of son, husband, father, brother, uncle, cousin, mentor and friend.

Towards the end of his secondary schooling, he moved to Saint Marc and stayed with his older brother Ernest. He worked at ODVA and started a small business with a friend he had met there. Subsequently, he migrated to the United States and met Clement Joachim. Together they became pioneers establishing an enclave of small Haitian-owned businesses in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Joe worked many years in Rahway for the Regina Company, a vacuum manufacturer. However, when asked to relocate to Mississippi, he decided to stay in Elizabeth, New Jersey and start his own business. Joseph Mercy alias Mercius or Joe embarked on the passion of his life to fulfill his dreams of becoming an entrepreneur. He proceeded to make a name for himself amassing properties and embarking on several business endeavors in the Elizabeth area.

In May 1983, Joe was the first Haitian to ever obtain an ABC liquor license in the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey. It allowed him to become the proud owner of International Wines and Liquors for years. Joseph was also the owner and operator of American Livery, a taxicab business. Subsequently, he also started a cargo service which facilitated the transport of personal goods from the States to Haiti. He also founded small businesses in Haiti, most prominently a Water Company in Saint Marc.

In addition to his business activities Joe was an activist and a community organizer, giving opportunity to Haitians and Haitian Americans to be heard and advocating for them.

On May 21, 1994, Joseph Lanier Mercy in collaboration with the Haitian American Cultural and Civic Association (H.A.C.C.A.) obtained the Resolution from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders allowing the Haitian Flag Day to be celebrated yearly in the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey- how fitting that he passed away on Haitian Flag Day on May 18- a true honor to his memory and legacy.

As the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Josephat Enterprises he served his Haitian community through multiple initiatives. Joe even had his own soccer team called Vedette that proudly wore the colors of Red and White.

Phanie Dorval and Joseph Mercy were married on November 10, 1975. They have three awesome children Yrose, Joseph Leo Jr. and Ecleynne. On April 24, 2011, Joseph Mercy and Phanie Mercy renewed their marriage vows at the Church of God of Bethesda. The couple had formed a friendship that was impenetrable.

Joseph is survived by his beloved wife Phanie Mercy, his children: Yrose, Joseph Leo Jr; spouse Shawanna, and Ecleynne Mercy, Esq; his son in law Leonard Louis and his eight grandchildren: Eric, Lesly, Terrence, Jovannia, Sarah, Nijoe, Summer and Kyani.

Joseph is also survived by his sister Marie Mercy and, by several nephews, nieces and their families:

Leonne (Altie), Ida, Christophe, Via, Oscar and their spouses, children, and grand children Eliota (Tiyote), Lemec, Moulo, Cavanac, Michelin, Ketia, their spouses, and children Kareen (Dr. Joseph), Yveto, Eddy, Robens, Guillaubert, Marissa, Bryant, their spouses and children. Edzer, his child, and Francyn Nadia, John, Dolcine, their spouses and children Soline, Ernst-France and their children.

Order of Service

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting

Sprinkling with Holy Water

[Placing of the Pall]

Entrance Procession

[Placing the Christian Symbols]

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading

Homily

General Intercessions

Offertory

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Memorial Acclamation

Communion

Speakers

Mayor of Elizabeth New Jersey ---- J. Christian Bollwage

Council woman of Elizabeth New Jersey ----- Patricia Perkins Auguste

Communion Meditation

Song of Farewell

Recessional

LINK: [Holy Rosary St Michael Elizabeth NJ - Youtube](#)

REPAST

Pines Manor Banquet Hall

2085 Lincoln Hwy, Rte 27 , Edison New Jersey 08817

Interment

Rosedale Cemetery

Linden, New Jersey

A SONG FOR DJO

By Eceleynne Mercy

Freedom! Democracy! Liberation! Justice for the people!!

These are the shouts of my people deeply rooted in my being. This is my past, my present and my Legacy.

Being Haitian, I can visualize Madame Ayiti wearing a gown of red and blue. The flag wrapped around her head is the symbol of the aspirations of democracy, covering the short, sun-colored, braids. Madame Ayiti carries two ripe mangoes in one hand, symbols of fertility and the Holy Bible in the other, testimony of her faith. Her dust-covered sandals remain proofs of her struggles, as her muscled arms and legs are evidence of her strength. She walks sternly, holding a bucket of water on her head - a sign of purity. As the sweat glistens down her face, she soulfully sings "Ayiti Cherie." As her honored son, I have sworn to protect her.

Being Haitian, my identity, is shaped and guided by my culture, my love for God, respect for hard work, passion for education. I honor those who have made me who I am, and serve as the daily reminder of whose' I am.

My name is Joseph Mercy.

I am the grandson of farmers, herders, merchants, and revolutionists. I fed the pigs, milked the goats, and chased away stray dogs. My back has been tattooed by the unrelenting sun; my hands have cupped water from the river by my childhood home. These same hands have shaken those of world leaders, and I've watched them marvel about my affinity.

With great privilege, comes great responsibility and a deep sense of obligation to my family, my community, to those who come after me and those braves few who paved the road before me.

I am the grandfather, father, uncle, and godfather of Lawyers, Doctors, Marines, Activists, Entrepreneurs, Artists, Educators, Health Care Workers, Creatives, World Travelers and World Changers.

I have stood in awe of my great nation from above the majestic cannons of King Henri Christophe. I have smiled in sheer delight at the procession of beautifully melanated faces taking their First Holy Communion and can hear freedom when children laugh and play in safety. I've eaten mangos until my stomach hurt and I've spoken truth to power when it was neither opportune nor comfortable. I have travelled to Jerusalem and placed my palm on Gethsemane. I have basked in the beauty and vastness of the Atlantic and vibed to the smooth stylings of Tabou Combo. I've assisted my countrymen when it wasn't advantageous, when it wasn't convenient but always when it was necessary.

My name is Joseph Mercy Sr. I am what my ancestors dreamt of being. I have been given birth by a great nation; and I rest as the proud son of "Peyi d'Ayiti".

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

130 Plain Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME

37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000

