



In Loving Memory

ATTA KAKRA
DERKYI, ESQ.



Saturday, 8 August 2026

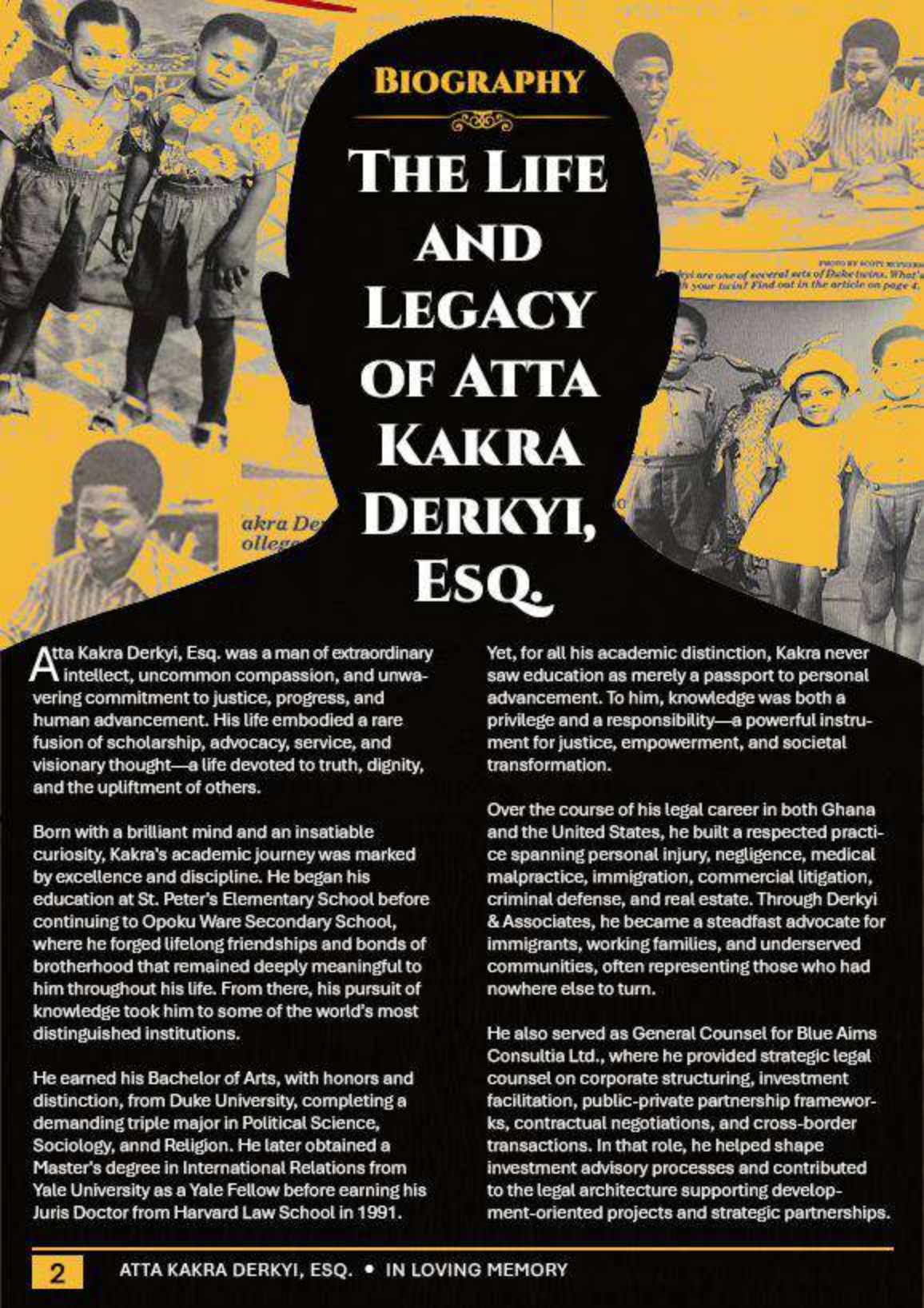
Call To Glory

Atta Kakra Derkyi, Esq.

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"The family of the late Atta Kakra Derkyi, Esq. warmly welcomes you to join us as we celebrate a remarkable life of service, excellence, faith and love. Your presence, prayers and support are deeply appreciated."

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BIOGRAPHY

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ATTA KAKRA DERKYI, ESQ.

Atta Kakra Derkyi, Esq. was a man of extraordinary intellect, uncommon compassion, and unwavering commitment to justice, progress, and human advancement. His life embodied a rare fusion of scholarship, advocacy, service, and visionary thought—a life devoted to truth, dignity, and the upliftment of others.

Born with a brilliant mind and an insatiable curiosity, Kakra's academic journey was marked by excellence and discipline. He began his education at St. Peter's Elementary School before continuing to Opoku Ware Secondary School, where he forged lifelong friendships and bonds of brotherhood that remained deeply meaningful to him throughout his life. From there, his pursuit of knowledge took him to some of the world's most distinguished institutions.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts, with honors and distinction, from Duke University, completing a demanding triple major in Political Science, Sociology, and Religion. He later obtained a Master's degree in International Relations from Yale University as a Yale Fellow before earning his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School in 1991.

Yet, for all his academic distinction, Kakra never saw education as merely a passport to personal advancement. To him, knowledge was both a privilege and a responsibility—a powerful instrument for justice, empowerment, and societal transformation.

Over the course of his legal career in both Ghana and the United States, he built a respected practice spanning personal injury, negligence, medical malpractice, immigration, commercial litigation, criminal defense, and real estate. Through Derkyi & Associates, he became a steadfast advocate for immigrants, working families, and underserved communities, often representing those who had nowhere else to turn.

He also served as General Counsel for Blue Aims Consultia Ltd., where he provided strategic legal counsel on corporate structuring, investment facilitation, public-private partnership frameworks, contractual negotiations, and cross-border transactions. In that role, he helped shape investment advisory processes and contributed to the legal architecture supporting development-oriented projects and strategic partnerships.

To many, Kakra was far more than a lawyer. He was a teacher, mentor, counselor, and relentless thinker. He taught International Law and International Relations at Montclair State University and conducted research at the University of Ghana and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. His intellectual reach extended across law, politics, economics, theology, African liberation, and global affairs. Conversations with him were never ordinary; they became classrooms without walls.

As one friend recalled, while covering minority-owned businesses in Harlem for New York Newsday during the early 1990s, Kakra's Manhattan office was often a sanctuary—a place of refuge, generous hospitality, and profound conversation. His generosity matched the breadth of his intellect. He could move effortlessly from analyzing New York City politics to examining the challenges facing African-owned businesses in America, always with insight, precision, and conviction.

But beyond his brilliance was his expansive vision for Africa and its diaspora.

Kakra understood wealth not as an end in itself but as an essential instrument for human and national advancement. He believed deeply in the strategic acquisition and responsible deployment of wealth to uplift people, build institutions, and transform societies. He was convinced that Africa's abundant natural and human resources must be harnessed to build national wealth, accelerate industrialization, improve living standards, strengthen the continent's global standing, and advance the cause of African unity. For him, economic empowerment was inseparable from justice and liberation.

This worldview shaped both his professional pursuits and his broader political philosophy. He believed that true African sovereignty could only be secured through economic independence, industrial capacity, and visionary leadership.

Beyond his public accomplishments, Kakra was deeply devoted to family. He was a loving father to his daughter, a proud grandfather, and a cherished uncle to his nephews and nieces. He shared deep bonds with his siblings and extended family,

carrying a profound sense of responsibility, loyalty, and affection for those closest to him. Family was central to his life, and his presence within it was one of strength, wise counsel, warmth, and enduring love.

He also valued friendship and brotherhood deeply. Whether among his classmates from Opoku Ware Secondary School, his colleagues and friends in Ghana, or his cherished circles at Duke, Yale, and Harvard Law School—both at home and abroad—Kakra cultivated relationships marked by loyalty, generosity, and genuine affection.

A man of deep faith, Kakra was also a passionate debater, an avid reader, a gifted writer, an evangelist, and a lifelong student of life. He traveled extensively across Africa and Europe, carrying with him a global vision rooted in African dignity, self-determination, and collective advancement.

To his family, and especially to his twin brother, he was more than a companion on life's journey. He was a mirror of shared beginnings, a keeper of cherished memories, and a soul whose life was inextricably intertwined with another.

The passing of Atta Kakra Derkyi on May 13, 2026, leaves a profound void. Yet his legacy endures in the countless lives he touched, the minds he shaped, the causes he championed, and the vision he carried for justice, prosperity, and Africa's renaissance.

He lived with conviction.

He served with purpose.

He loved deeply.

And he dreamed boldly for Africa.

In that, his life was truly consequential.

May his noble soul rest in perfect peace.



ORDER OF BURIAL SERVICE



OFFICIATING MINISTERS

- Bishop Dr. Nathaniel Annan
- Bishop Dennis Amartey D.D
- Bishop Solomon Kudowor
- Bishop Divine Bannerman
- Bishop Nelly Koomson
- Rev. Harold Buxton
- Rev. Michael Owusu-Ansah
- Prophet Daniel Hammond

ORDER OF SERVICE

- Prelude
- Processional
- Welcome & Opening Prayer
- Congregational Hymn Abide With Me
- Scripture Reading
- Biography
- Tributes
- Song Ministration
- Sermon
- Prayer for the Family
- Offertory
- Congregational Hymn Guide Me,
O Thou Great Redeemer
- Announcements
- Closing Prayer
- Recessional

TRIBUTES



CELEBRATING A LIFE
THAT TOUCHED MANY AND
INSPIRED GENERATIONS

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*A life of purpose
leaves behind a
legacy that time
cannot erase.*

WORDS OF LOVE | MEMORIES OF HONOR |
A LEGACY REMEMBERED

TRIBUTE TO MY TWIN BROTHER, ATTA KAKRA DERKYI, ESQ.



There are moments in life for which no preparation is ever enough. This is one of them.

On May 13, 2026, my world changed in a way I could never have imagined. I lost my twin brother, Atta Kakra Derkyi. He lived an amazing life of impact, dignity, and service. His legacy lives on in his daughter, his grandchildren, his family, the lawyers he mentored, the clients he served, and all who were touched by his generosity and brilliance.

To many, Kakra was a son, a father, a grandfather, an uncle, a nephew, a cousin, a colleague, and a friend. But to me, he was much more than that. He was my twin—my first companion in life. He was my mirror, my keeper of memories, and my lifelong witness.

We came into this world together. And from the very beginning, our lives moved side by side. We started elementary school together at St. Peter's Elementary School, progressed to Opoku Ware Secondary School, and from there began a journey of shared discovery that would eventually take us across continents—from Ghana to Duke University.

As the children of Paul Akwasi Derkyi and Hannah Abena Akyeraa Boakye, Kakra and I were blessed with creative gifts. Through their love, sacrifice, faith, discipline, and steadfast example, our parents instilled in us the values that guided our lives and shaped our character. But most importantly, they encouraged us. We spent countless hours at the library at the Kumasi Cultural Center reading, learning, and stretching the boundaries of our young curiosity. We also drew, sculpted with clay, and explored the world through art. Those early years shaped our imagination and sharpened our minds.

We played soccer together, visited our aunts often, and absorbed the love and grounding of family—love that would later sustain us through the many vicissitudes of life. Looking back now, I realize those formative years gave us the emotional strength, discipline, and cultural rootedness that we would need for the journey ahead.

By the time we arrived at Duke University as freshmen in 1978, our personalities were fully formed. We had a deep love for learning. We had mental discipline, and we had a strong sense of what it means to be African. This mindset became our foundation for navigating our academic, social, and political lives in America. Some have asked about the experience of leaving our world behind and coming to the United States. As two young African men, were we anxious? Did we have sleepless nights? The answer is no. Not at all. We had confidence because we had each other.

Our years at Duke University were intense and defining. Every single day in our academic journey, Kakra and I made it a habit to leave the library only when it closed. That discipline, forged over years of sacrifice and commitment, made it possible for both of us to graduate with honors and distinction.

Kakra carried that discipline into every phase of his life.

I was particularly proud of him when he graduated from Harvard Law School, passed the New York Bar, and established his law firm in Manhattan. It was a remarkable achievement. However, it was the way he practiced law that made me the proudest. He mentored young attorneys, served the business community, and extended his work to support the immigrant community in New York. Years later, he established another legal practice in Ohio, continuing his service with the same dedication and integrity.

Kakra's compassion was as remarkable as his intellect. Case in point: I once learned that some of his clients owed him substantial sums of money. I offered to help him collect the debts. But he said no because some of the clients were facing financial difficulties. Kakra chose grace over pressure. This is who my brother was—deeply human, principled, and empathetic.

One of the great joys of my life were our coast-to-coast birthday conversations—long phone calls between San Francisco and New York, filled with laughter, political debates, reflections on Africa, and endless discussions about business ideas and innovation. Those conversations were more than routine; they were rituals of brotherhood, intellect, and love. They kept us connected across distance, across time, and across the evolving chapters of our lives.

Perhaps one of the most profound chapters came in 2016 when Kakra asked me to come home to Ghana. He had moved back by then, and he convinced me that he needed me here. And perhaps, in truth, I needed him too. It turned out to be one of the most important decisions of my life.

Here in Ghana, our bond took on a new purpose. Kakra joined Blue Aims Consortia Ltd. as legal counsel. There, he brought his sharp legal mind, strategic insight, and vast experience to help grow the company. Once again, we were back together again building something—just like old times—and our lives had come full circle.

That was the beauty of our relationship.

From St. Peter's Elementary School to Duke University.

From clay sculptures in Kumasi to legal strategy in Ghana.

From boyhood dreams to professional accomplishments.

Although we made the journey of life together, we were not alone in the end. In Kakra's final days, our brothers and sisters, relatives, and loved ones—whether in Ghana or across the world—came together with extraordinary love, constant prayers, unwavering support, and quiet sacrifice to ensure that he was never alone. In those difficult moments, we were reminded that while life's achievements may distinguish us, it is the enduring love of family that sustains us, comforts us, and becomes our greatest blessing.

Caption:

Atta Panyin
Derkyi and Atta
Kakra Derkyi at
Duke University.

Source:

Extracted from
The Chronicle,
Duke University's
daily newspaper,
published on
Thursday,
February 22,
1979, in a
feature high-
lighting twin brothers
attending Duke
University.



PHOTO BY SCOTT MCPHERSON

Panyin and Kakra Derkyi are one of several sets of Duke twins. What's it like to go to college with your twin? Find out in the article on page 4.

Twins

There are memories only twins carry.

Conversations that only twins can understand.

Silences that only twins can hear.

To lose a brother is painful.

But to lose a twin is to lose part of your own living memory.

It is a fracture in the soul.

And yet, even in grief, I remain profoundly grateful.

Grateful for the gift of sharing this life with him.

Grateful for his wisdom.

Grateful for his loyalty.

Grateful for his love.

Grateful for the journey.

Death may have taken him from our sight, but it cannot erase his imprint.

He remains with us—in memory, in spirit, and in the values he lived by.

My brother.

My twin.

My companion through life.

Your work here is done.

You fought your battles.

You ran your race.

You carried your burdens with courage and dignity.

Now may you find peace in eternity.

Rest well, Kakra.

Rest well, my brother.

Rest well, my twin.

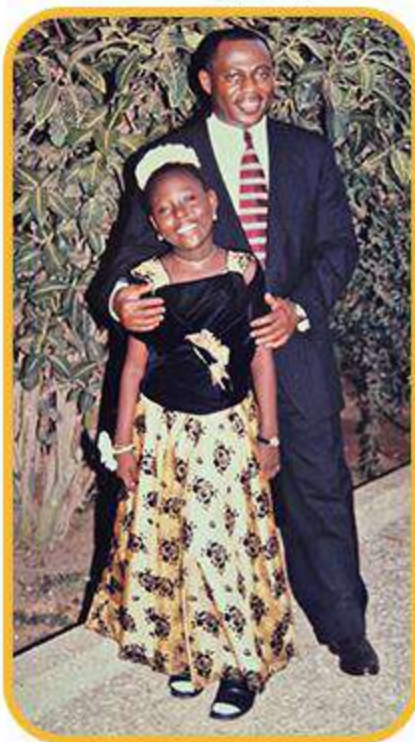
Until we meet again.

Twin Brother
Atta Panyin Derkyi
Accra, Ghana

TRIBUTE TO DADA



Dada, I love you so much. I am very thankful to have had you in my life. You meant so much to me, and I will always be grateful for you.



You were more than just a father to me — you were like my best friend. You were someone who motivated me, encouraged me, and showed me love not only through words, but through your actions. You were the person I could call whenever anything was going on, or even when I just wanted someone to talk to. Anytime I called, you would always answer.

You always encouraged me to go further in life and to achieve more. You taught me not to live in fear and to stand up for myself and speak up for myself. You always reminded me to stay focused on God and encouraged me and the children to read the Bible from the beginning and build a strong relationship with God. You taught us not to tolerate disrespect from anyone and to always know our worth.

You helped me so much, especially when it came to raising my children. Whenever I struggled or needed advice, you were always someone I could call, and you always knew the right things to say. Even though you were far away, you cared deeply about Abby and Kiki. You checked on them, talked to them, encouraged them, and wanted the best for them. You cared so much about their education and their future. Your birthday messages and words of encouragement always meant so much to us.

Even when we had disagreements or conflicts, one thing I appreciated so much about you was your ability to take accountability and apologize. That meant a lot to me. You always made me feel seen, heard, and understood.

I am so thankful to God for blessing me with a father like you. Now that you are gone, I feel like I lost a big part of myself. I lost a parent, a friend, my best friend, and someone who helped guide me through life and parenthood. I lost the person I could always call and talk to whenever I needed comfort, advice, or simply conversation.

I still do not fully understand why this happened, and I may never fully understand. But at the end of the day, God knows all things. I wish so badly that I could talk to you again.

What I will always hold onto is how grateful I am that you were my father. I will forever thank God for allowing me to have you in my life.

I love you dearly, and I miss you so much.

Abby and Kiki love and miss you too. Even though you did not live with us, you meant so much to them as well.

We love you deeply, and we pray that one day we will see you again in heaven

A TRIBUTE FROM YOUR ABBY AND KIKI



Dear Grandpa, You were truly one of the most important people in our lives. Even though we didn't see you that much, knowing how much you cared about us and our education really made an impact in our lives. You cared about us so much, and so did we. You will always be an important person in our lives. It doesn't matter if you're here or not, you will always be a part of us, and we will always remember you.

Love,
Abby & Kiki.



TRIBUTE FROM THE FAMILY



With hearts filled with both profound sorrow and immense gratitude, we celebrate the life of our beloved Atta Kakra Derkyi—a devoted son, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend. To us, Kakra was much more than his remarkable academic achievements or distinguished legal career. He was the heart of many family conversations, a trusted source of wisdom, a gentle counselor, and a man whose generosity knew no bounds. His brilliance was matched only by his humility, and his unwavering commitment to justice was equaled by his deep love for family. He believed in the limitless potential of people. He encouraged us to dream boldly, to pursue excellence with integrity, and to use our talents in service of others. His life reflected discipline, compassion, faith, and an enduring belief that education and opportunity could transform lives, communities, and nations.

As a family, we were privileged to witness not only his accomplishments, but also the kindness, humor, loyalty, and quiet strength that defined the man behind them. During his final days, we came together to surround him with the same love and devotion that he so generously gave throughout his life—a testament to the enduring bonds he helped nurture within our family. Though his physical presence is no longer with us, his spirit lives on in the values he instilled, the lives he touched, and the legacy he leaves behind. We take comfort in knowing that his journey was one of purpose, dignity, and faithful service.

Our beloved Kakra, your life was a gift to us all. Your memory will forever remain a source of strength, inspiration, and pride.

*Rest peacefully in the loving embrace of
the Almighty until we meet again.*



TRIBUTES

REFLECTONS FROM FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES,
CLASSMATES & LIFELONG COMPANIONS.

“*The measure of a life is not only in its achievements, but in the friendships, memories and lives it leaves behind.*”

TRIBUTES FROM DUKE UNIVERSITY FRIENDS AND ALUMNI



I will never forget meeting Kakra when we were students together at Duke University. Like everyone who knew Kakra, I was attracted to his genuine friendliness, stirred by his courage to speak the truth even when it might be unsettling, and inspired by his commitment to serve humanity in both large and small ways.

Kakra was a serious student. He knew at an early age that he wanted to get things done in this life, and he was never afraid or reluctant to do what he felt must be done.

His fofou was light but at the same time spectacularly flavorful. He had an easy, reassuring smile. He always listened to what others had to say, but he did not hesitate to speak his mind.

I will always be grateful for his friendship.

Bennett Johnston

California, USA

Duke University Alumnus

I am taking a moment to honor and reflect on the time that I met Atta Kakra while a young student at Duke University. In retrospect, it seemed like divine providence that I would meet this brilliant young man from Ghana and his fraternal twin brother Atta Panyin. You see, I was a young, clueless kid from a small city in the South. I am second son of 4 boys and my two youngest brothers are also fraternal twins! We are very close, even today, and my younger twin brothers are closer. I have admired their bond and connection over the years.

As a complete stranger on campus and somewhat of a loner, I missed the camaraderie of my brothers and family in Durham. Though I struggled as one of very few blacks in engineering at Duke, it was always refreshing to sit with Kakra and Panyin after a long day to debate politics and socialize with others. Like my brothers, the "elder twin" Panyin was usually fire and intensity, while the "younger twin" Kakra was usually reserved and cerebral, though both were always profound and wise. They were never lacking for thought provoking ideas and perspectives. I treasured these moments and learned something new every time.

At the time, I was extremely naive about the world, politics and even Africa. I was immediately intrigued by the intellect and passion of these brothers from Africa. Just like my fraternal twins brothers, Stan and Stephen, they are different in personality, but they are bold and relentless in challenging your thoughts and perspectives with respect to politics, history, society and justice. Their international perspective opened up the broad horizon of the world to this country boy, who had never been much further than Roanoke, VA. Even today, my brothers and I constantly debate and discuss the ways of the world every time we get together, like I learned many years ago at Duke.

After college, we went our separate ways so I never saw Kakra again, though we spoke on the phone a few times. I know that he went on to Harvard law school and built a great legal practice serving others. I imagine that he maintained that "quiet storm" of intellect, persistence and wisdom everywhere he went.

I want to send our profound love, support and prayers to the entire family in this very difficult time. He will be missed and may Atta Kakra rest in eternal peace.

All our love from the Jones Family in Virginia,

Michael, Penni & Misha

Michael, Duke University Alumnus

TRIBUTES FROM DUKE UNIVERSITY FRIENDS AND ALUMNI (CONT'D)



Under normal circumstances, the question of a person being extraordinarily genuine, without a scintilla of concealed agendas, selfish gain, or desire to harm or manipulate others may seem idealistic. Nevertheless, Atta Kakra Derkyi embodied these very characteristics and even more!

The calmness that Kakra oozed to ease my nerves in the first weeks of my freshman year at Duke University was emblematic of his selflessness and unblemished motive. Having been one week late for classes, I was not only in a state of intense anxiety, panic, and nervous anticipation, but also in the throes of searing pain caused by stomach ulcer. Kakra's pure motive was exemplified by the helpful suggestions he offered me, without a hint of any hidden motive.

Using his trademark self-deprecating humor, Kakra leveraged his experience at Duke to reassure me that I possessed all the tools not only to endure the academic rigor of the institution, but I will excel during that journey! Walking back to my dorm room, I was buoyed by Kakra's resolute encouragement, as well as his confidence and calm disposition. Suffice it to say that he lifted my spirits, offered me encouragement, and strengthened my resolve. In sum, Kakra's myriad suggestions helped me to preempt and grapple with some potentially prickly situations on campus.

When I eventually settled into the routine of campus life, I learned from him that painstaking research work often produces robust outcomes, evidenced by the inordinate time he spent at Duke library and his stratospheric academic feats at the institution.

Although Kakra could have immensely gained financially from his Harvard law degree, it was not fortuitous that he chose to devote his law practice to help immigrants from Ghana, sub-Saharan Africa and other countries; that was symptomatic of his inherent compassion and visceral distaste for exploiting vulnerable members of society. It was in the same context that he was unabashedly passionate when discussing the critical success factors for Africa's collective economic development. One will be hard pressed to find a more committed Pan-Africanist than Atta Kakra Derkyi!

Those of us who had the privilege to socialize and have discussions with Kakra will sorely miss his altruism, humanity, and sympathy towards others. His passing is especially jarring in an era when kindness and service to others are increasingly becoming qualities of a bygone era.

May Kakra rest in perfect peace.

G. Amankwah-Buansi
Duke University Alumnus

TRIBUTE FROM PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES



It is with deep respect and profound sorrow that we pay tribute to Atta Kakra Derkyi, Esq., who served as General Counsel for Blue Aims Consultia Ltd.

In his role, Kakra worked closely with the Principal Consultant of the firm in advancing the legal and strategic foundations of the organization's work in investment advisory, public-private partnerships, corporate structuring, and development-oriented transactions. He brought to every assignment an exceptional level of legal precision, intellectual depth, and disciplined judgment.

Kakra's contribution went far beyond technical legal counsel. He was a thinker of rare range—someone who consistently elevated discussions beyond immediate transactions to long-term national and continental impact. His guidance reflected a deep conviction that law, when properly applied, must serve as a catalyst for economic transformation, industrial development, and the strengthening of African institutional capacity.

Within Blue Aims Consultia Ltd., he was known for his calm authority, careful reasoning, and unwavering integrity. He approached complex negotiations and advisory work with clarity and foresight, ensuring that every decision was grounded in both legal soundness and strategic purpose. His presence brought stability, and his counsel carried weight.

Beyond his professional excellence, Kakra embodied a quiet commitment to service and intellectual rigor that inspired those who worked with him. He was deeply committed to the broader vision of using Africa's resources, talent, and institutions to build sustainable wealth and improve the quality of life across the continent.

His passing is a significant loss not only to his family and loved ones, but also to all who had the privilege of working with him. At Blue Aims Consultia Ltd., we remember him as a colleague of exceptional caliber—principled, insightful, and devoted to excellence in all he did.

His legacy endures in the work he helped shape and in the standards of thought and professionalism he set.

May his soul rest in perfect peace.

Blue AIMS Consultia Ltd.
Tribute presented on behalf of Blue AIMS Consultia by
Prof. Samuel Amiteye

TRIBUTES FROM **OPOKU WARE** SCHOOL FRIENDS AND ALUMNI



As a reporter covering minority businesses in Harlem for NY Newsday in the early 1990s, Attah's Manhattan law office was a frequent refuge where I could recharge my weary mind and find comfort in the company of a friend whose hospitality reached extraordinary heights.

Equally remarkable was his Renaissance intellect. His expertise spanned a wide range of subjects. He was as comfortable dissecting New York City politics as he was offering sharp commentary on the struggles of African-owned businesses in America. Time spent with him was always an education in the affairs of life.

Beyond this crucible of intellectualism stood Attah's profound humanism. His Harvard Law School education was never intended to secure the cushy comforts of a large corporate law firm. Instead, he chose to establish a modest practice dedicated to serving the poor and underprivileged in matters ranging from immigration to personal injury. It was work he deeply cherished because it reflected his enduring commitment to service and humanity. May he rest in perfect peace.

Jojo Fred Sarpong
Gainesville, Virginia, USA
Opoku Ware School Alumnus

When it dawn's on you to give an account of or to pay tribute to a friend, companion and a loved one – Lawyer Kakra Derkyi was all that to me.

We bonded at the high school in Kumasi, in the early seventies at the prestigious Opoku Ware School. At school, we stayed at the same house – The St. Peter's House. Back then, the twin were fire-brand and were a torn in the flesh for many unsuspecting Juniors who crossed their path. We parted ways and they left to the U.S. for their undergrad at the Duke University. It must be on record that, before the duo, left to the U.S. in 1978 – Kakra paid me a farewell visit in Sunyani, where I was living then, for about a week.

In his not many visits back home in the 90's, he made sure he checked on me before he departed. In his late visits thereafter, I saw in him that, he was a changed person, very reserved, humble, and his life was full of grace. He was then, very knowledgeable, intelligent and composed. What stood out about him then, was his Christian attributes. I can say for a fact, that, those of us who came closer to his quiet would testify that he led a life full of virtues. His Christian tutelage was highly exemplary. What I can testify about his life is this: Kakra never pursued wealth but rather showed love to humanity.

His academic pursuit, undoubtedly, would have carried him to places. If he had chosen wealth as a pursuit he would have done it to the core. He would definitely, have embraced himself into the corporate environment which his contemporaries did. Having had degrees from Duke, Yale and Harvard. Even a single degree from any of these institutions would have been an opener to the corporate world. He started through, as a Wall Street Lawyer and as an adjunct Professor but his

He started through, as a Wall Street Lawyer and as an adjunct Professor but his Christian calling changed his perspective of life which made him gravitate towards the downtrodden, the weak, the poor and people of the likes.

He was so sympathetic to the poor and the marginalized in societies where he found himself. For want of space, I have decided to shelve most of the examples. On his re-location back to our motherland, Ghana, in a couple of years back. Having lived in the U.S. for about 4 decades then of which he had seen it all. In my first encounter with him then, he told me he wanted to pursue his Christian calling. I was shocked to the marrow upon hearing him. I told myself, what? How can this be? I did not agree with him and therefore, convinced him to do the licentiate in the Ghana Law regime. As a close friend and confidant I accompanied him to Makola to do the needful. This took him about almost a year as required.

Admittedly, if I have any regret about anything in our relationship it would be not allowing him to do as he had wished – pursuing his Christian calling. Again, as I have already stated, his love for humanity was more than his love for wealth.

He surrendered his pride, and embraced humility and lived in selfless service to others.

In conclusion, I will like to dwell on the Methodist hymnal – 182 - The first stanza;

- When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died. My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Also, my 2 bible quotations are found in:

1. Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God.

2. Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Thank you.

Katakylie Samuel Adu-Gyamfi (F66)
Opoku Ware School Alumnus

On a sunny Thursday morning, 23 September 1971, a group of young boys gathered on the sacred grounds of Opoku Ware Secondary School. We had come to begin a journey in the pursuit of academic knowledge, but more importantly, to embark on a lifelong journey of friendship, camaraderie, and brotherhood.

Among this group was a rambunctious pair of twins—Panin and Kakra Derkyi. The two were inseparable. God forbid you picked an argument or started a fight with one of them; the other would immediately join in, right or wrong. I should know, because I had the privilege of being in the same class with them—from Form 1D through Form 3. Those of us from 1D can certainly attest to this.

Some of us, myself included, became bosom friends with them—indeed, brothers—despite their occasionally cantankerous nature. (I like to think it was because they feared me, knowing I could discipline them!)

Their beloved mother, Madam Abena Kyeraa, of blessed memory, also became a mother to many of us. On exeat weekends, we would gladly make our way to their home at Adom to enjoy delicious home-cooked meals and the warmth of her hospitality.

Together, we spent five memorable years at our great school, growing into responsible young men.

It would be dishonest of me not to honour our brother by speaking the truth. During our school days, both Panin and Kakra had little enthusiasm for attending church services, especially those conducted by Father Habits, much to his frustration. Father Habits seemed to become their nemesis because of it.

Little did we know then that Kakra would later become a deeply God-loving and God-fearing man. He came to embody true Christian spirituality, living out the principles of the faith through his work as a lawyer—loving God and serving others with integrity, compassion, and justice.

In 1978, Panin and Kakra left for Duke University in North Carolina, USA. I was fortunate enough to move to the United States in late 1979, and we quickly reconnected. During school breaks, they often came to New York to visit me at my uncle's apartment.

After graduating from Duke, Panin moved to California while Kakra proceeded to Yale University in Connecticut. I was immensely proud of both of them, but especially Kakra for gaining admission to Yale. I remember telling him exactly how proud I was as I drove him there.

From Yale, Kakra went on to Harvard Law School—another remarkable achievement in an already distinguished academic journey.

The demands of life in America inevitably made it difficult for us to remain in constant touch.

After Harvard, Kakra worked briefly before establishing his own legal practice in New York. He later relocated to Ohio, where he continued to build an admirable legal career.

At some point, however, homesickness caught up with many of us. I eventually returned to Ghana and, although Panin and Kakra may deny it, I still like to think that, as their "boss" from our secondary school days, they simply followed my lead!

With the advent of WhatsApp, and through the tireless efforts of Koo Kyei, who created the H-Year platform, many of us who had otherwise lost contact with one another were able to reconnect and renew old friendships.

I fondly remember our gatherings at Prampram, courtesy of SP Winston Osei Akoto, at Serene View Hotel, and other unforgettable reunions—one organised by our indefatigable Atomy Hayes, affectionately known as "Atosabora," at his sister's establishment. There were many other occasions when we met simply to relive old memories and celebrate the enduring bond we shared.

Looking back now, I realise how precious those moments were. Life teaches us that we should cherish every opportunity to spend time with those we love, because time waits for no one.

Then came Wednesday, 13 May 2026—a day I will never forget.

It fell to me to perform the painful duty of informing our H-Year forum that our brother and friend, Atta Kakra Derkyi, had answered his Maker's call after a short illness.

We lost one of our own—a man we had known from boyhood, grown up with, laughed with, journeyed through life with, and loved as a brother.

That sad day will forever remain etched in the memories of the H-Year family and the wider fraternity of Opoku Ware Secondary School.

Kakra, your journey on earth may have ended, but your memory will forever remain alive in our hearts.

Thank you for your friendship, your kindness, your generosity, your humour, and the example you set through your life.

Travel well to your Maker.

May God, in His infinite mercy, grant your gentle soul eternal rest.

Sleep well, our brother.

Sleep well, our friend.

Sleep well, our comrade-in-arms.

May God bless your memory, comfort your family, and continue to bless us all.

Rest in Perfect Peace.

**By Katakylie Augustine Felli on behalf of the H-Group
Accra, Ghana**

"A final tribute from lifelong friends whose bond of brotherhood endured through the years, celebrating the remarkable life, character, and enduring legacy of Atta Kakra Derkyi."

A Life of Faith, Wisdom, Love, and Service

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants."

Psalm 116:15 (NIV)

There are people whose achievements bring them recognition, but there are also people whose character leaves a lasting mark on the hearts of those who know them. Atta Kakra Derkyi was one of those rare individuals. His life reflected excellence, humility, faith, and love.

He was a distinguished scholar, an accomplished lawyer, a devoted son, brother, father, grandfather, mentor, and friend. Above all, he was a faithful servant of Jesus Christ.

I thank God for the privilege of knowing Kakra not only as a respected attorney and an exceptional man, but as my dear friend, my brother in Christ, my counselor, my advisor, and my faithful prayer partner. His life was a testimony of faith, and his influence will continue to inspire me and strengthen my walk with God.

Words cannot express how much I miss him. I miss his wisdom, his prayers, his encouragement, and the comfort of knowing I could always call him and receive thoughtful counsel from a heart anchored in Christ.

Kakra lived his faith through his actions. He loved God, served others, encouraged those around him, and remained humble despite all he accomplished. He reminded me to trust God, remain prayerful, and keep my eyes fixed on Jesus. Those lessons and prayers will remain with me always.

Although my heart is filled with sorrow, I hold tightly to the hope we share in Christ. Kakra loved the Lord, and I find comfort knowing that the God he faithfully served has welcomed him home.

Kakra, thank you for your friendship, your prayers, your wisdom, your kindness, and the example of faith you left behind. Thank you for always pointing me closer to Christ through your words and the way you lived your life.

Your absence is deeply felt, and you will be missed beyond measure. But your faith, your love, and the impact you made will never be forgotten. I will carry your memory in my heart and forever be grateful that God allowed our paths to cross.

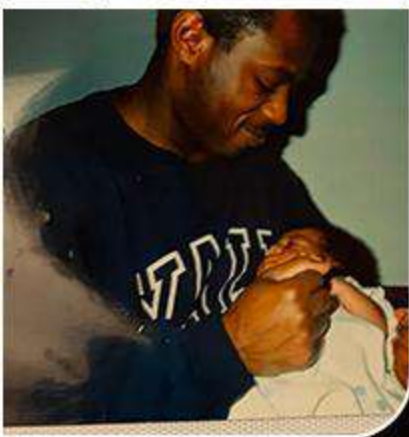
Until we meet again, my dear friend and brother in Christ, rest peacefully in the presence of the Lord you loved and served so faithfully.

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

Matthew 25:23 (NIV)

Michelle Woart
Cambridge, Massachusetts

MEMORIES IN PICTURES



MEMORIES IN PICTURES



Acknowledgement

The Derkyi Family sincerely thanks everyone for your prayers, love, support, visits, calls and generosity during this difficult time. May God richly bless you.