



# MAJOR GEORGE AKOETAY (RTD)

AGED: 87

# George Kofi Akoetey

George Kofi Akoetey was born to Mr. John Koshivi Akoetey of the Adom family, Nogokpo and Mrs Felicia Fiawosinu Akoetey of the Agorbia family, Aflao in Keta on the 2nd July 1937. He was the third child of his parents.

As the last trading post in the Gold Coast, Keta was a vibrant, multicultural and multiethnic thriving town with many educational opportunities. Young George was bright and curious. He was enrolled at the Keta Roman Catholic Mixed Boys School. Following in the footsteps of his older brother, Francis Aloga Akoetey, he led the school's band. He completed his education by earning the Middle School Leaving Certificate in 1955.

Being an aspirational, ambitious young man, he followed the pioneering steps of his older brother, Francis and enlisted in the Gold Coast regiment in 1956. Unrelenting, he took correspondence courses for his Cambridge Ordinary and Advanced levels, earning him a position in the officer corps as part of intake 2. He was commissioned as an officer on June 11, 1961.

George diligently served his country, continent, and humanity in the pursuit of peace during the Congo Crisis, as a platoon commander in the first UN Peace Mission in 1960. Your dedication to service, peace, and humanity earned you medals and recognition among your men, peers, and seniors.

A man of deep values, intelligence and knowledge, you battled ignorance, small-mindedness and misinformation in every aspect of your life. You were committed to illuminating the mind. Dad was Grammarly and ChatGPT before digitalisation, with a pen in hand to correct grammatical errors in every newsprint before rereading for its knowledge accretive purpose.

The boy from Nogokpo, who lived in Keta, excelled in all he put his mind to—from athletic competitions in the army, where he consistently won in the high jump and pole vault, to his victories in Dehradun, India.

His stellar performance orchestrated his rise through the ranks. Due to his professionalism and leadership qualities, he held several leadership positions in the Ghana Army, including a company commander of the elite President Own Guards Regiment (responsible for the then first President of Ghana, Dr Kwame Nkrumah) – where he served in Flagstaff House, coincidentally, opposite Christ the King Catholic Church, where we stand today to bid him farewell and celebrate the wonderful life he lived.

His life is a testament to a confluence of excellence, high aspiration, ambition and value-led life. Nelson Mandela said education is the only weapon to defeat poverty. This finds full expression in Dad's life. Education granted him the opportunity to explore his whole self and to live purposefully.

As a values-driven professional, he was not influenced or swayed by ideologies; he diligently served Ghana's First President and subsequent military and civilian governments. He was Commander of the Central and Western Regions of Ghana until December 1979. He retired into civilian life in May 1980. He joined AFKO Fisheries as Purchasing Manager. He led many flagship programmes and initiatives of AFKO in rice cultivation, sports development and expansion into other areas beyond tuna fishing, agriculture and trading as a close associate of Bok Nam Kim, founder of AFKO Group of Companies, until his retirement in 1999.

He was not one to complain about abuse, discrimination, or excesses, nor did he disclose information, preferring to uphold his professional oath and code of conduct until the end.

His life epitomised the inscription at the entrance to his childhood home and the Akoetey family house in Keta 'Mawu La Woe' – the blessed assurance that God has got him and will make all things beautiful in its time.

He was the perfect 'girl dad' - a feminist, in that he believed in equality of opportunity and didn't consider it a disadvantage to have had all girls. He taught us how to change light bulbs, check for oil, sort out battery terminals so that there was always competition over his toolbox and his long-nosed pliers.

June was the month of milestones: he was commissioned as an officer in June, married his dear wife of 61 years in June and passed away in June.

He was a fortnight shy of his 88th birthday.

We are very grateful that he lived 17 years beyond the age of 70, living his purpose & convictions.

He lived a full life, enjoying each moment as it was.

He lived to see his children's children, and the accomplishments of his children and their children.

Daddy left footprints in time, he is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, siblings, cousins and many nieces and nephews who deeply loved him.

# Order Of Service

## OFFICIATING CLERGY

Very Rev. Fr. Ebenezer Akesseh

Rev. Fr. Gerald Owusu-Amankwatia

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## CHOIR IN ATTENDANCE

Christ the King Mass Choir

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## PART 1: PRE BURIAL RITES

- 7:00am - Arrival of body
  - 7:30am - Reception of body
  - 7:40am - Filing past
  - 8:15am – Biography
  - 8:30am - Dirge
  - 8:45am - Closing of casket
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## PART 2: BURIAL MASS

- Introductory Rites
- Entrance hymn
- Introit
- Kyrie (Mass of St Jude)
- Opening prayer
- Liturgy of the Word
- 1st Reading
- Responsorial Psalm

(CH34 – MY SOUL IS LONGING FOR YOUR PEACE)

- Gospel Acclamation
- Gospel
- Homily
- Prayer of the faithful – (Ma w'Adom)

- Collection

(CH374 Through all the Changes Times of Life

CH376 Take my Life and Let It Be

CH166 Just as I am)

- Offertory (CH377 All To Jesus I Surrender)
- Incensing (CH61 Solemn Sacrifice Begins)
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Preparation of Gifts
- Sanctus. (Mass of St Jude)
- Agnus Dei (Mass of St Jude)

- Communion

(CH102, God Of Love My Shepherd Is

CH245 How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds

CH350 Guide me, oh Great Redeemer)

- Post Communion prayer
- 2nd Collection

(CH311 Give Me the Wings of Faith to Rise

CH259 What A Friend We Have In Jesus)

- Announcements
- Final commendation
- Recession (CH305 Hark Hark my Soul)

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### **PART 3: AT THE GRAVE SIDE**

- Procession (CH351 Lead Kindly Light)
- Opening hymn (CH361 Days and moments flying)
- Blessing of the grave
- Internment and Commitment (CH364 Now the Labourers' Task is Over)
- Final prayers
- Benediction
- Closing Hymn (CH190 Alleluia Alleluia)

*Thank You*



*Thank You*