



Mark O. August

MAY 18, 1953 - JUN 17, 2021



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Mark O. August

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Mark Octavius August was born on 18 May 1953 in Cape Town, South Africa. At the age of six he moved to Malawi with his mother and stepfather where he grew up and went to school. Mark's career as a journalist started in Malawi in the early 70's when he joined the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) as a producer. He enjoyed writing and had a natural gift of the local African languages and dialects and mastered seven international languages. This must have driven him to join the print media in South Africa and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) during the difficult independence struggles of those countries. Mark also worked in England and France as the editor of the New Africa Magazine before crossing the Atlantic to the United States of America. In the US He worked for several newspapers in New York and Chicago, respectively, before settling in Tampa, Florida where he was an editor at the Tampa Tribune and later as a freelance writer. During his distinguished career Mark trotted the globe, mostly in the troubled spots of Europe, Middle East and Africa, covering and writing stories for the organisations he worked for.

Mark suffered a severe stroke in July 2008 while living at Laurel Cove Circle, Odessa, Tampa. He spent some months in hospital. After his discharge from hospital, he spent the rest of his life at the Advanced Rehabilitation and Health Centre in Clearwater from where he was taken ill to hospital on Wednesday 16 June 2021. He died in the early hours of Thursday 17 June 2021. Mark is survived by his adopted daughter Margaret and two siblings, Faith and Henry and nieces, nephews and cousins.

Service will be available via Live Stream:

<http://webcast.funeralvue.com/>

Event ID: 57698

No password required



Events


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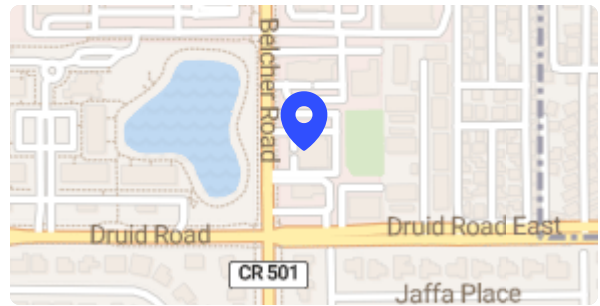
Funeral Service

 **Tuesday**, August 3, 2021

 1:00 PM ET

 **Moss Feaster Funeral Home and Cremation Services - Clearwater**


693 South Belcher Road, Clearwater FL 33764

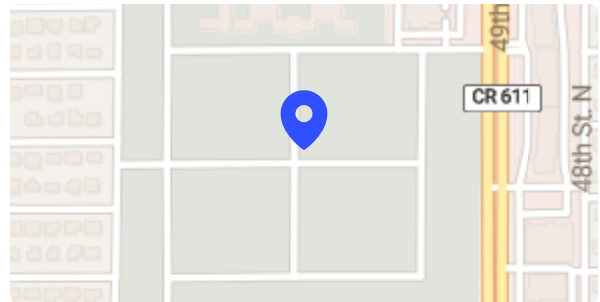


Cemetery Details

 **Memorial Park Cemetery**

5750 49th Street North, St. Petersburg FL 33709

 **(727) 369-8228**





Tribute Wall

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Rex Harawa posted:

Mark, a friend and a brother. A beautiful soul. Rest in peace, bro., 🙏

July 20 at 8:22 AM



John Rutledge posted:

Mark was my neighbor in Odessa Florida! He and my father were friends first. Mark helped me with several papers while in junior high and high school! I was saddened to find out he had passed! RIP Mr August

September 14 at 7:11 AM



Pauline Nyirenda lit a candle in honor of Mark.

Until that beautiful morning when its all over.... Sleep well our dear brother 🙏

August 3 at 8:39 AM



Pauline Wembley posted:

Test

August 2 at 10:02 AM



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Joan posted:

When I heard you had passed away, I was stunned. I remembered the last book we talked about - Cliché, by Martin Amis, one of your favourite authors. I raved about his zip and button of language. You eventually deciding he was pretentious. But you made me laugh. You always made me laugh. I remember the last place we visited in Tampa. The day started badly as you refused to wear the clothes the nurse had set out for our visit to an art gallery. Eventually, you relented, and we set off, but our conversation remained mono-syllabic. When we arrived, the exhibition had started, and it wasn't long before you began to mumble corrections and omissions at the tour guide. He began to look at you before he dared finish his explanations; you had started to enjoy the attention. And I began to feel immensely proud of you again. You were a catalyst for so many people, you began in-depth Bible studies, roaring impromptu lunches, including piles and piles of watermelons, echoing laughter, and debate. Proper debate that changed our world, with its twists and turns, as you painted the world and your place in it. Our conversations were beautiful. I felt so moved by you, and your courage, even though you did not feel courageous. I had to accept you were no longer agile, or spontaneous, and your illness and experience of incredible sadness had changed you. But you gave me a joy, and gladness, I will never be able to express. Rest in peace. Joan

August 2 at 9:03 AM



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RA

Rachel posted:

My sincerest condolences to the family. Mark was truly a charismatic gregarious warm hearted individual ! Last time I spoke with Mark, one would never know his condition was as it was. Mark made me laugh so much during our conversation. He will be missed. Rachel

June 23 at 4:48 PM



Benjamin Sassman April 24 at 6:22 AM

Uncle Mark, did not expect to find this, you came to us from Malawi when you met my dad, Frank Sassman, who also passed away a two years ago. I remember my brother (Paul) and I visiting you at your home in Tampa where you instructed your complex security to greet us as "Baas"...that was so funny. Knew I could reach out to you for some help, only to find this...I am sad now as you were a good man and a good family friend...rest well.



Victor Gondwe January 11 at 9:40 AM

Don't know what to say. Have been looking for you since you left Malawi for SA. Didn't know you were in the US the same time I was there. Today, bored in my hotel room Johannesburg and you were the 1st person I was googling only to come across the obituary. Keep resting in peace my friend. Victor K Gondwe, Lilongwe, Malawi



Andrea George July 13 at 1:11 AM

This obituary was a sad discovery for some of Mark's South African friends. He was a larger than life person, and after his stroke he just faded out of our lives. My friends and I have wonderful memories of time spent and conversation had with Mark. He will not be forgotten.



Marcia Singleton June 26 at 6:40 AM

I met Mark after he lost his first wife, Jackie Ward, through Jackie's parents. Charlie and Alberta Ward. He never lost his love and respect for the Wards and adopted them as his parents. Mark was truly unique, intelligent, lover of fine things with a great personality. He knew how to make you laugh and feel special. I am so sorry for his lost but look forward to our heavenly reunion. Marcia



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Mark by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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