



OEA Mourns the Passing of Two of its Founding Members

The Eritrean Community in the Washington, D.C. metro in general, and the Organization of Eritrean Americans (OEA) in particular lost two of its members this week: **Dr. Amdetsion Kidane and Haile Abraham.**

Dr. Amdetsion and Haile were among the OEA's founding members, always willing to serve their community. They were strong defenders of the Eritrean national cause for justice until their last breath.

All in all, both have left indelible marks of decades of devotion to the local as well as the larger Eritrean American family and their people at home. But, mostly importantly, they were both dedicated to their respective families.

Dr. Amdetsion Kidane, who was a professor of business administration at Howard University for more than three decades, died on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, in Falls Church, Virginia; he was 77. Dr. Amdetsion, who authored several fiction and nonfiction works in Tigrigna, most of them dealing with the different aspects of his people's protracted search for freedom. He was also a poet with poetry for every Eritrean occasion.

He is survived by his wife, Mana Solomon, his children, Brook, Ezra and Ruth.

Dr. Amde's funeral services will be held at **Fairfax Memorial, 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032, on Monday, May 9, 2016, at 3 pm.**



Haile Abraham, an information technology specialist by profession, passed away at Mount Vernon Hospital in Alexandria, VA, also on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at the age of 64 years.



Haile was an active member of the Dehai Eritrean network almost from its beginning, where he contributed many passionate articles in defense of Eritrea.

Haile had a passion for life, sports and he was also involved in promoting music, film and other entertainment forms within the Eritrean culture. Haile was a member of the Eritrean National Holidays Coordinator Committee's media group and one of the organizer of the basketball competition around the Washington, DC festival.

Haile is survived by his son Matthew.

Haile's memorial and interment services will be held at **Fairfax Memorial Park, 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032, on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at 12 pm.**