

A FAMILY TRIBUTE

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE HERE TODAY FOR PAYING THEIR RESPECTS TO MY LATE UNCLE KEN, TO MOST PEOPLE WHO KNEW HIM WELL HE SPENT MOST OF HIS WORKING LIFE ABROAD AS A BANK INSPECTOR FOR BARCLAYS BANK INTERNATIONAL ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF COURSE BUT IT WAS AFRICA THAT HE ONCE TOLD ME HE WAS FOND OF, HE WAS A MAN WHO TOOK HIS CAREER VERY SERIOUSLY AND DEDICATED ALL HIS WORKING LIFE TO ACHIEVING PERFECTION IN EVERYTHING HE DID , SO WELL IN FACT HE WAS REWARDED BY HIS COUNTRY, AND IN HIS LEISURE TIME HE WAS THE PERFECT HOST AND GENTLMAN, BUT WE NEVER SAW MUCH OF HIM AND KEPT IN TOUCH BY LETTER, YET WHEN HE DID FIND THE TIME TO VISIT HE ALWAYS TURNED UP WITH GIFTS FOR ALL AND A HEFTY SLICE OF POCKET MONEY FOR MY BROTHER AND I SO AT XMAS AND BIRTHDAYS YOU LOOKED FOR THAT INDELIBLE HANDWRITING OF HIS IN THE POST ESPECIALLY TO A BOY GROWING UP IN THE FIFTIES. ONE TIME COMES TO MIND WHILST LIVING AT HOME WITH MAM AND DAD IN THE 70S THE POST THIS DAY WAS A CRATE SENT FROM ISRAEL BY KEN AND WHEN WE EVENTUALLY OPENED IT, IT WAS FULL OF JAFFA ORANGES, JUST ONE OF MANY GIFTS SENT OVER THE YEARS TO MY PARENTS AS I'M SURE MANY PEOPLE HERE TODAY WILL OF ENJOYED HIS GENEROSITY, LIKE MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN WHO CANT BE HERE . PERSONALLY I WILL MISS HIS KIND AND GRACIOUS COMMAND OF GOOD TASTE AND ESPECIALLY HIS CONVIVIALITY WHEN IN HIS COMPANY ON THE VARIOUS VISITS TO SEE HIM IN TIMBERLEY WHEN WE WOULD REMINISCE ABOUT THE TIME I COOKED XMAS LUNCH FOR 11 JUST AFTER GRANNIE DORIS DIED, AND IF THE CLOCK REACHED 5PM HE WOULD SAY DAVID WOULD YOU LIKE A WHISKY ,THEN 20MINUTES LATER HE WOULD SAY WOULD YOU LIKE THE OTHER HALF, TODAY I WILL HAVE 2 WHISKIES AT 5PM YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN ME WHERE I WILL TOAST THE MEMORY OF A EXCEPTIONAL HUMAN BEING AND IF NOT TO FORGET HIS LOVE OF AFRICA I WILL USE THE SWAHILI " PUMZIKA KWA AMANI MJOMBA KEN" WHICH TRANSLATED MEANS REST IN PEACE UNCLE KEN, AND FINALLY A POEM ON BEHALF OF MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

OUR LIVES GO ON WITHOUT YOU
NOTHING WILL BE THE SAME
WE HAVE TO HIDE OUR SADNESS
AT THE MENTION OF YOUR NAME
A CARING NATURE WITH A HEART OF GOLD
THE VERY BEST THIS WORLD COULD HOLD
NEVER SELFISH ALWAYS KIND
THESE ARE THE MEMORIES YOU LEAVE BEHIND
A SILENT THOUGHT ,A QUIET PRAYER
FOR UNCLE KEN IS IN GOD'S CARE
THOSE SPECIAL YEARS WILL NOT RETURN
WHEN WE WERE ALTOGETHER
BUT THE MEMORY OF OUR UNCLE KEN
WILL STAY WITH US FOREVER.