

*“We are dealing with unity. Our line is that there is no inferior person, no superior person. There’s only one race and that’s the human race. But we are basically Africans and we’re trying to unify the African nation.”*

*~Bandeleg Tyehimba*

## **Obituary for Bandeleg Tyehimba**

### **Owner of Pan African Connection Bookstore, Dallas, TX**

Bandeleg Tyehimba was born Rickey Hogue on December 17, 1953, in Cleveland, Ohio. He was the third of six children of Mae Hogue-Walker and Stanford Lewis. Bandeleg attended Cleveland public schools and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 1972. After graduation, he served approximately six years in the U.S. Air Force and moved to Dallas in 1980. Bandeleg received certification in electrical engineering from DeVry University and worked as an electronics technician for the Boeing Company. In 1987, Bandeleg met his wife Akwete, while studying journalism at North Lake College where he received his associate’s degree.

Bandeleg embraced his African heritage and was a devoted student of revolutionary thought. He was a member of the All African People’s Revolutionary Party and spent much time recruiting members in Dallas before later leaving the group to help organize the United States of Africa Revolutionary Party. “He was a worker,” says his sister Renee. “He was always a worker.”

In 1989, Bandele and Akwete opened the Pan African Connection Cultural Center and Bookstore in the community of Oak Cliff and became major providers of books and artifacts from the African Diaspora. In the early days, Bandele supported the bookstore with his earnings from Boeing and Akwete worked there part time when the store was open only three days a week. Today, Pan African Connection is store is open seven days a week and is the oldest and largest cultural institution of its kind in Dallas.

On Feb. 15, 2012, Bandele who was 58, passed away peacefully at his bookstore, the place that he established so that members of his community in Dallas wouldn't have to go very far to experience the culture and spirit of Africa, and have a home away from home.

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Along with his wife Akwete, others that Bandele leaves to remember him are his daughter, Adjwoa, two sons, Bambata and Sekou; grandchildren, Cadence and Kimora; father, Stanford Lewis; six sisters, Pat Hogue and Renee Edwards of Dallas, Loretta Williams, Rosalyn and Michelle Hogue of Cleveland and Belinda Hogue of Tuskegee, Ala.; brother-in-law Dwayne Edwards; neice DyAnna Cohen and nephews Dwayne Edwards, Brandon Rice; grand nephews, Javaun, Vincent, and Vinyaun, and many other loving family members and friends.