I N M E M O R I A M

Ter nagedagtenis



Lazarus Munsami Gounden

16 April 1956 - 31 October 2026

“The Nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten.”

- Calvin Coolidge

Lazarus Munsami Gounden, affectionately known as Steven, was born on 16 April 1956 in Hillhead Estate, a sugar farm in Blackburn, North Coast of Kwa-Zulu Natal where he spent his formative years.

He married Mary on 1976-07-14.



Lazarus Munsami Gounden and his dear wife Mary

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He was the second youngest of six siblings and came from humble beginnings, which helped shape the resilient and determined man he would become. His working career began at eThekwini Municipality before he pursued his calling as a police officer with the South African Police (SAP) during 1981.



Third row, L-R, 11th Lazarus Munsami Gounden

South African Police, Training College, Wentworth, Durban, Platoon 35 / 1981



L.M. Gounden Second from right



Black and White photograph of the Mount Edgecombe "Whitehouse" Police Station



Colour photograph of the Mount Edgecombe "Whitehouse" Police Station

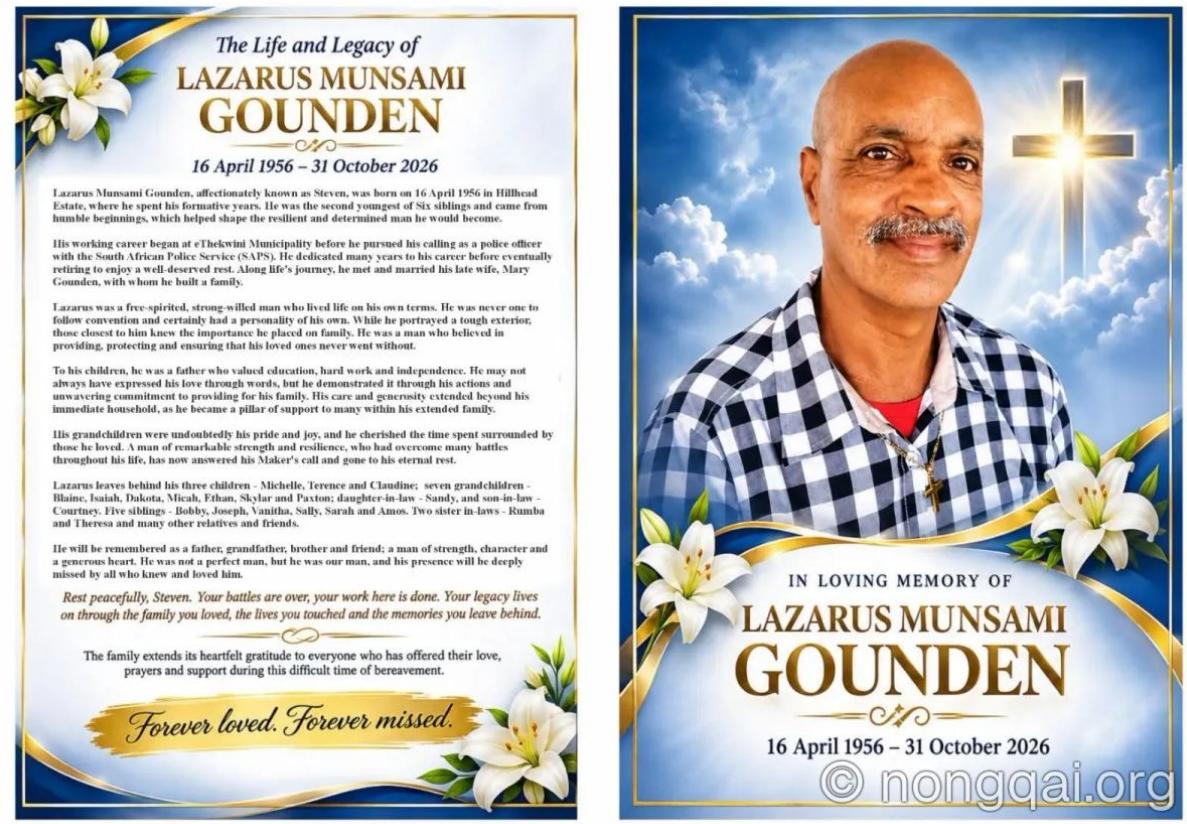
He was posted to Mount Edgecombe and later joined the South African Police, Indian Music Band. Thereafter served at the Special Guard Unit at Malgate Building, Durban and retired in 1997. The highlight of his career was at the VIP Protection Unit. He dedicated many years of his life to his career before eventually retiring to enjoy a well-deserved rest. Along life's journey, he met and married his late wife, Mary Gounden, with whom he built a family. Lazarus was a free-spirited, strong-willed man who lived life on his own terms. He was never one to follow convention and certainly had a personality

of his own. While he portrayed a tough exterior, those closest to him knew the importance he placed on family. He was a man who believed in providing, protecting and ensuring that his loved ones never went without. To his children, he was a father who valued education, hard work and independence. He may not always have expressed his love through words, but he demonstrated it through his actions and unwavering commitment to providing for his family. His care and generosity extended beyond his immediate household, as he became a pillar of support to many within his extended family.



From L – R, 1st Lazarus Munsami Gounden; 4th Mary

His grandchildren were undoubtedly his pride and joy, and he cherished the time spent surrounded by those he loved. A man of remarkable strength and resilience, who had overcome many battles throughout his life, has now answered his Maker's call and gone to his eternal rest. Lazarus leaves behind his three children - Michelle, Terence and Claudine; seven grandchildren - Blainc, Isaiah, Dakota, Micah, Ethan, Skylar and Paxton; daughter-in-law - Sandy, and son-in-law - Courtney. Five siblings - Bobby, Joseph, Vanitha, Sally, Sarah and Amos. Two sister-in-laws - Rumba and Theresa and many other relatives and friends. He will be remembered as a father, grandfather, brother and friend; a man of strength, character and a generous heart. He was not a perfect man, but he was our man, and his presence will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Rest peacefully, Steven. Your battles are over, your work here is done. Your legacy lives on through the family you loved, the lives you touched and the memories you leave behind. The family extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has offered their love, prayers and support during this difficult time of bereavement. Forever loved. Forever missed.



Obituary LM Gounden

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“Death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart” (*Ecclesiastes 7:2*) (KJV). Death reminds us of the brevity of life and that we only have a certain amount of time to live and love well. Farewell Sir, We thank and Salute you for serving.”

“*Each day, millions of police officers do the selfless work of putting their lives on the line to protect civilians, frequently responding to or preventing crises completely with no recognition*.” – Letitia James

“*Agnoscere et honorare servientibus*” –

“To acknowledge and honour those who served”

“Soli Deo Gloria” - “To God Alone Glory”

Logan Govender