

# Yahya A. Ahad

Yahya A. Ahad was born in Juncos, Puerto Rico in 1943. During his teenage years, his parents and three siblings relocated to the Lower East Side of Manhattan, New York. There, he married and had four daughters. In 1972, Yahya embraced the religion of Islam. In hopes of further educating himself about his new faith and surrounding himself with other Muslims, he and two of his daughters relocated to Los Angeles, California.



In 1981, he remarried and gained a step-son and had three additional daughters. Inspired by local entrepreneurs whom he admired and respected, Yahya made intentions to establish a business of his own. In 1988, he created the Garden of Fragrance of San Diego. He frequented local swap meets every weekend and attended festivals in an effort to increase his business and build a clientele. Working tirelessly and through his tremendous work ethic, the business grew large enough for him to open a small storefront shop in Southeast San Diego. There, he increased his inventory and stock. He also



began to offer customers the opportunity to establish businesses of their own, by selling starter kits of oils and incense supplies. This opportunity empowered many men and women with the ability to earn an honest income. Providing these opportunities was important to Yahya because his life experiences and faith dictated his sincere desire to make a difference in the lives of those who came in contact with him.

Over the years, the growth of the Garden of Fragrance forced Yahya to expand and relocate to a larger building. His business contacts and clientele stretched across the world from as far as China to the deserts of Mexico. Yahya took pride in cultivating solid business relationships and valued every customer whether spending a dollar or a thousand dollars. Undoubtedly, the success he had building the Garden of Fragrance was due to his faith and its teachings.

When Yahya wasn't toiling in the shop, he loved spending his time hiking local mountain paths with family and friends or working out. His most memorable and challenging hike occurred in 2011 when he trekked Mt. Whitney and successfully reached the summit. He truly enjoyed challenging his classmates to push themselves to the limit during kickboxing class. On December 22nd, after finishing a strenuous workout, Yahya suffered a massive stroke. The Lord saw fit to claim him and he completed his life's journey on December 26th, surrounded by his wife, his sister and each of his children.

Yahya A. Ahad leaves behind a strong legacy, a strong entrepreneurial spirit, and silent philanthropic efforts. He leaves behind his wife, seven children, five grandchildren, and one sister.