



**INCORPORATED**

**PO BOX 1872, CLINTON, MARYLAND 20735**

**TEL: 301 856-9188 → EMAIL: [vipinc@erols.com](mailto:vipinc@erols.com) → FAX: 301 868-2836**

**VENUE INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONALS, INC.  
“MOURNS THE LOSS OF A GREAT AFRICAN STATESMAN AND  
CELEBRATES HIS VISION OF UNITY FOR ALL AFRICANS”**

**NELSON ROLIHLAHLA MANDELA  
Sunrise July 18, 1918 and Sunset December 5, 2013**





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### **To Our Friends, Clients and Business Associates of Venue International Professionals, Inc.**

The Gospel according to Matthew Chapter 25 Verse 21 proclaims: *“Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee a ruler over many things”*. NKJV

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a good and faithful servant who has finished his “Long Walk to Freedom” and is now truly at rest. He represented ultimate courage and sacrifice as he went from an “Enemy of the State to the Head of State” in South Africa. His legacy of freedom will forever mean that one’s life can actually make a difference in the noble cause for peace and justice for his people despite the country’s long and brutally oppressive history of apartheid.

Despite the challenges to armed struggle against apartheid, he eventually chose to forsake bloodshed and renounce violence as one of the defining moments of the political process in South Africa which led to both he and former President F.W. de Klerk receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. His sheer will virtually transformed South Africa into a democracy bringing into the world one of the most progressive constitutions which allowed black South Africans not only the right to vote but access to the heights of political, social and economic power.

He became a global icon when he was sworn in as the first black president of South Africa and heralded South Africa’s re-entry into the world stage as the “rainbow nation” at peace with itself and the world as we proudly know it today. Perhaps Mandela’s greatest influence was his personal determination that the people of South Africa could overcome the many years of hatred and distrust and learn to co-exist by transforming each other’s grievances into forgiveness.

His other significant achievement was his extensive charitable legacy including the creation of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund and 46664 – the HIV/AIDS initiative named after his prison cell number from his political imprisonment on Robben Island. In 2009, the United Nations declared that July 18th, Mandela’s birthday would be a worldwide day of community service known as Nelson Mandela International Day. In his later years, Mandela was affectionately known by all South Africans as Madiba, the name of his tribal clan and a mark of great honor.

Though he was only in power for five years, he became a global figure of enormous moral influence as a symbol of revolution, resistance and triumph over racial injustice. He inspired a generation of activists, left world leaders and celebrities star-struck and raised millions of dollars for humanitarian causes. Madiba will be greatly missed, but his legacy of social justice



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and peace building will forever endure and inspire people everywhere to continue the same journey.

Nelson Mandela was a tall man in more than stature - he was a man like David, after God's own heart. He was to everyone a wise counselor, mentor and father figure. We would like to share with you a poem from Maya Angelou that best exemplifies what Madiba meant in our lives.



### When Great Trees Fall

When great trees fall - rocks on distant hills shudder, lions hunker down in tall grasses and even elephants lumber after safety. When great trees fall in forests, small things recoil into silence, their senses eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die, the air around us becomes light, rare, and sterile. We breathe briefly, our eyes see with a hurtful clarity. Our memory, suddenly sharpened, examines, grows on kind words unsaid, promised walks never taken.

Great souls die and our reality, bound to them, takes leave of us. Our souls, dependent upon their nurture, now shrinks, wizened. Our minds, formed and unformed by their radiance fall



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away. We are not so much saddened as reduced to the unutterable ignorance of dark cold caves.

And when great souls die, after a period, peace comes slowly and always irregularly. Spaces fill with a kind of soothing, electric vibrancy. Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us, they existed - they existed. We can be better - For they existed.



Madiba will be forever missed but never forgotten for the great tree that he was in all of our lives. We thank God for the great life that he lived and how he changed our lives for the better.

*Helen Broadus*  
President

*David J. Saunders*  
Chief Executive Officer