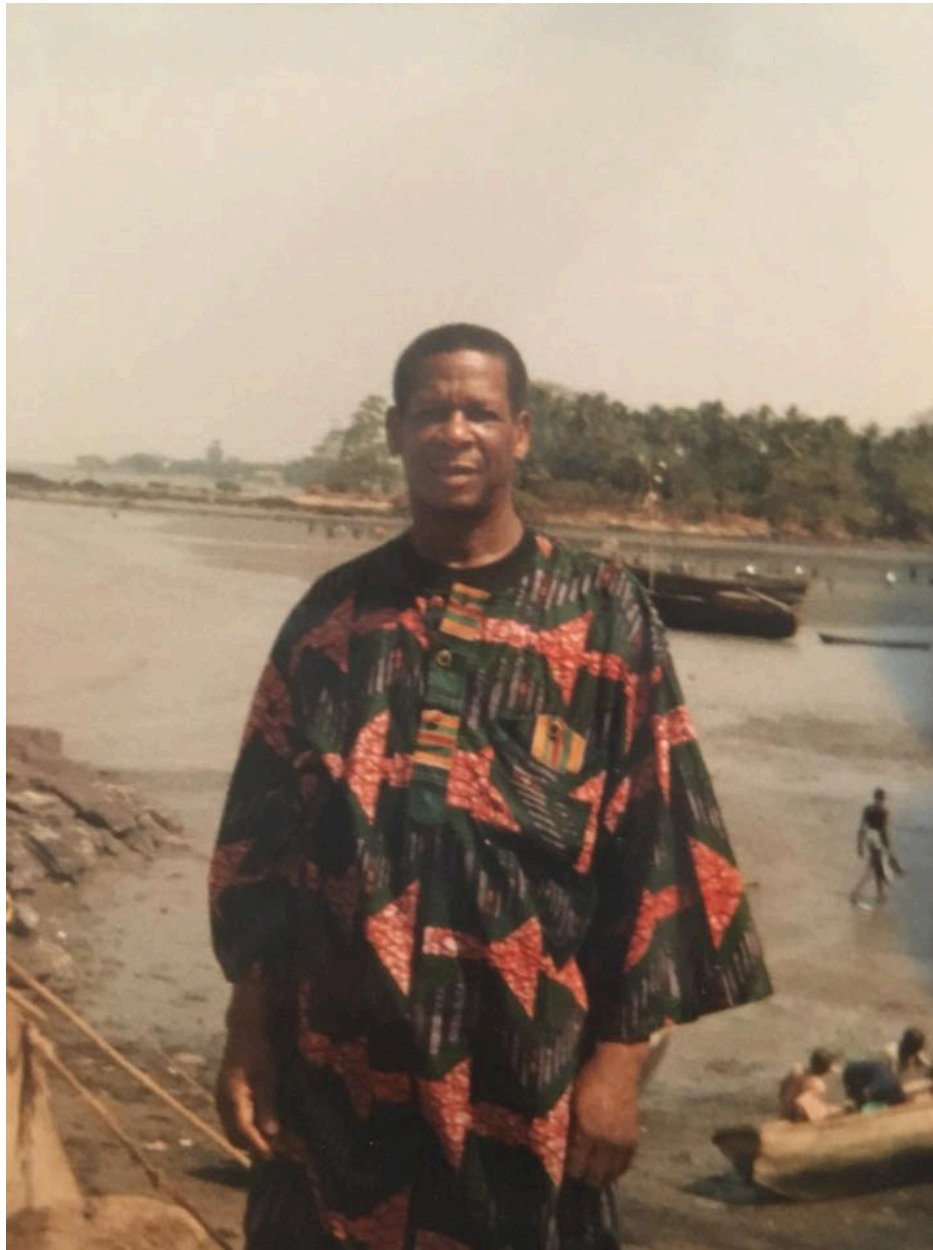


O.D. Mobley: In Memoriam



O.D. Mobley was a master drummer in the African tradition, husband, loving father to five, grandfather to 22, and great grandfather to 9, in addition to being a carpenter/craftsman. He was a drummer with Wajumbe Cultural Ensemble, Diamano Coura West African Dance Company (a nonprofit cultural organization dedicated to the preservation, education, and appreciation of traditional West African music, dance, theater, and culture) and Shades of Black in northern California. In his journey, he visited the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Mali to sharpen his drumming skills and awareness of African culture and arts. He was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas as the second child of eleven. In high school in San Francisco, California he was a star basketball player and a boxer. At the sunset service for Mr. Mobley in Richmond, California, attendees dressed in African attire and relatives and friends played their drums for him at the gravesite (interment), and the repast.

