Souane Khamvongsa

May 19, 1937 - April 29, 2021

In Remembrance
Souane Khamvongsa
May 19, 1937 – April 29, 2021

Funeral Service
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Jefferson Funeral Chapel
Alexandria, Virginia

Program

10:00am Welcome
Ms. Dara Baccam

10:05am Buddhist Ceremony
ພິທີທາງສາສະໜາສຳຫລັບຄອບຄົວ

Presentation of the Robes
ມອບຜ້າໃຕ ບັງສະກຸນ

Presentation of Wreaths

ມອບພວງມະລາ

10:45am Eulogy
Pon Khamvongsa
Channapha Khamvongsa
Bandasack Khamvongsa

11:00am Floral Placements by Guests

11:30am Procession and Cremation
ແຫ່ສົບໄປບ່ອນວາງເພີງ ລົດ
ງານສົບ (ມີແຕ່ຄອບຄົວ)

12:00pm Reception at Family Home
5952 Kedron St, Springfield, VA 22150
ພິທີທາງສາສະໜາຢູ່ເຮືອນ (ສູດແລະສຶກອ້າຍຈົວກັບແມ່ຂາວ)
ເສັດພິທີແລ້ວຂໍເຊີນທ່ານຢູ່ຮ່ວມຮັບປະທານອາຫານນຳເຈົ້າພາບ

A private service will be held on May 4, 2021 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. This service is private and may be viewed via livestreaming due to COVID-19 restrictions. To view the service livestream and recording please come back to this obituary website. We will be streaming directly to this obituary's tribute wall. The video will display as a post on the tribute wall when we start the service. Please click play when the video is posted and available. If you are having technical difficulty you can view this service later as the video is recorded and will remain on this page. We appreciate your understanding during these extremely difficult times.

Obituary for Souane Khamvongsa

Souane Khamvongsa was born on May 19, 1937 in Luang Prabang, Laos to a Chinese father, Phong Han, and a Lao mother from Siengkhan, Keo. He passed away peacefully at home on the early morning of April 29th, surrounded by family. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Phouangphaka (Phouang), and his three children, Phonesouda (Pon), Channapha, and Bandasack (Bebo), as well as his sons-in-law, Kane Vongsavanh and Reginald Bonhomme.

He was the youngest five siblings, who have all passed. He had three older sisters, Euay Eee, Euay Ta, and Euay Hom and an older brother, Ai Yuan. His mother died shortly after his birth and several years later his father passed.

He was raised by relatives in Ban Chomkhong on the street adjacent to the former Royal Palace in Luang Prabang. The family had a business of importing goods from around the world. Growing up, Souane was a gifted athlete and learned to play basketball and tennis and to swim in the Mekong. He attended the local Chinese grade school, where he became fluent in Mandarin. Childhood friends described him as charismatic and a jokester, always able to attract a crowd to make people smile and laugh. His good humor and athleticism made him popular with family and friends.

Souane would eventually leave his beloved Luang Prabang to further his studies in Vientiane, returning to Luang Prabang occasionally, but always representing the Province. Souane was a star and captain of the Luang Prabang basketball team. His ability to dribble and make long shots earned him a spot on the Lao national basketball team. In 1962, Souane represented Laos in the Asian games and traveled with the team to play in Indonesia.

He furthered his studies abroad in Saigon and Taipei. When asked what he learned from his studies, Phouang usually joked that he learned to, “Eat, drink

and tango."

When he returned to Laos, he worked for his family business in Vientiane and continued to play recreational basketball. He also coached the Lao Airlines women's recreational team, where he caught the eye of one of its members. After practices, the team and coaches would go out to eat, and it was during those group dates that Souane and Phouang became friends and eventually husband and wife.

Souane and Phouang married on December 22, 1968 in Vientiane and in 1971 had Pon, followed by Channapha two years later, and then Bebo, in 1975. They were able to raise and protect their family, despite internal conflicts and war in Laos, but they knew changes were coming.

After the new Lao government came to power in 1975, Souane and Phouang tried their best to build a safe future for their children, but their affiliation with political and military families made their future in Laos uncertain. As they saw their friends rounded up and sent to reeducation camps, Souane and Phouang began planning a different future for their family.

In 1979, the family escaped Laos to the Nong Khai refugee camp in Thailand. Everyone left by boat except for Souane, who, to avoid government suspicion, swam across the Mekong. He made it across the river but was captured by Thai border patrol and imprisoned. He was eventually released and found his way to the Nong Khai camp, where he reunited with the rest of the family. In July of 1980, the family resettled in Virginia, where Phouang's brother, Somsanith, lived.

Like most refugees, Souane and Phouang sacrificed much to build a better life for their children, despite not having any time to reflect on their own difficult journeys. Souane took any job he could to earn a living, including as a

dishwasher and restaurant worker. He eventually got a job at the Washington Post, working overnight shifts in the printing shop. He worked there for over a decade, earning a decent wage and health insurance, which provided some stability for his family. The later years of his work life were spent as a daytime driver, delivering various products to clients. He enjoyed this job very much because it allowed him to explore new places and use his Rand McNally Large Road Map, which he loved to pull out to show his children where he had driven that particular day.

Despite the difficult transition to America and working long hours, Souane spent time with his children, taking them to the park and teaching them to play basketball and tennis. Souane and Phouang's courage and hope inspired their children to fulfill the dream they had decades ago when they left Laos for America. Pon and Bebo have had successful careers in the private sector, enabling them to support their parents in their later years. Channapha started the nonprofit Legacies of War to help clear leftover bombs from Laos. Their parents were role models for the achievement that comes from taking risks and overcoming hardships.

In his final years, Souane had a heart condition that limited his mobility, but he found comfort in connecting with his family in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. He also enjoyed visits from his friends, especially those from his childhood in Luang Prabang. He and his friends would spend hours reminiscing about their younger years and catching up on where around the world friends ended up after the war.

During his last week, Souane shared meals with his wife, soaked in the sun on the back deck, where he usually spent his time during sunny days, and enjoyed telling stories to his children. Souane will be missed by family and friends from around the world.

ຊີວະປະຫວັດຂອງທ່ານສ່ວນ ຄໍາວິງສາ

ທ່ານສ່ວນ ຄໍາວິງສາ ເກີດເມື່ອວັນທີ 19 ເດືອນພຶດສະພາ ປີ 1937 ທີ່ເມືອງຫລວງພະບາງ ປະເທດລາວ. ພໍ່ເປັນຄົນຈີນຊອດລາວ ຊື່ພິງ. ແມ່ເປັນຄົນລາວ ຊື່ນາງແກ້ວ ມາຈາກຊຽງຄານ ທ່ານສ່ວນເສັຍຊີວິດໄປຢ່າງສະງົບຢູ່ເຮືອນ ໃນຕອນເຊົ້າມືດຂອງວັນທີ 29 ເດືອນເມສາຜ່ານມາ ໃນທ່າມກາງສະມາຊິກຄອບຄົວ ອັນມີຍານາງພວງພະກາ ພັນລະຍາທີ່ຢູ່ກິນນໍາກັນມາໄດ້ 53 ປີ ແລະລູກສາມຄົນ ຄືນາງພອນສຸດາ (ພອນ) ນາງຈັນນະພາ(ຈັນ) ແລະທ້າວບັນດາສັກ(ບິໂບ່) ພ້ອມທັງລູກເຂີຍ ຄືທ່ານ Reginald Bonhomme ແລະທ່ານ ການ ວິງສະຫວັນ.

ທ່ານສ່ວນເປັນລູກຫລ້າ ໃນຈໍານວນອ້າຍນ້ອງ 5 ຄົນ ອັນມີເອື້ອຍສາມຄົນ ຊື່ນາງຍີ ນາງຈັນຫອມ ນາງຕາ ກັບອ້າຍ ຊື່ທ້າວຍ່ອນ. ທັງໝົດໄດ້ເສຍຊີວິດໄປກ່ອນເພິ່ນ. ທ່ານສ່ວນກໍາພ້າແມ່ແຕ່ນ້ອຍ.າງແກ້ວເສັຍຊີວິດໄປຫລັງຈາກໃຫ້ກໍາເໜີດລູກຊາຍຫລ້າໄດ້ບໍ່ດົນ ແລະບິດາກໍໄດ້ເສັຍຊີວິດຈາກໄປຫລາຍປີຕໍ່ມາ.

ທ່ານສ່ວນໃຫຍ່ຂຶ້ນມາກັບພີ່ນ້ອງ ຢູ່ບ້ານຈູມຄ້ອງ ຢູ່ຖະໜົນຕິດກັບອະດີດພະລາດຊະວັງ ເມືອງຫລວງພະບາງ. ຄອບຄົວເຮັດທຸລະກິດນໍາເຂົ້າສິນຄ້າຈາກທົ່ວໂລກ. ຕອນຍັງໜຸ່ມນ້ອຍ ທ່ານສ່ວນເປັນນັກກິລາທີ່ມີພອນສະຫວັນ. ເພິ່ນໄດ້ຮຽນຫລິ້ນກິລາບານບ້ວງກັບເທັນນິສ ແລະຮຽນລອຍນໍ້າຢູ່ນໍ້າຂອງຈົນເກັ່ງ. ລິ້ມຕົ້ນການສຶກສາຂັ້ນປະຖົມ ທີ່ໂຮງຮຽນຈີນ ຈົນປາກພາສາຈີນກາງໄດ້ເກັ່ງ. ໝູ່ເພື່ອນໃນສະໄໝເດັກນ້ອຍ ພາກັນເວົ້າວ່າ ທ່ານສ່ວນເປັນຄົນມີສະເໜີ ເວົ້ານົວຫົວມ່ວນ ແລະມັກເວົ້າຕະຫລົກ ຊື່ງດຶງດູດໃຫ້ຜູ້ຄົນເຂົ້າມາຫ້ອມລ້ອມຟັງເພິ່ນເວົ້າ ແລະພາກັນຫົວຢ່າງມ່ວນຊື່ນ. ຄວາມເປັນຄົນທີ່ມີອັດທະຍາໄສດີ ມີອາລົມດີ ແລະເກັ່ງກ້າດ້ານກິລາ ເຮັດໃຫ້ທ່ານສ່ວນໄດ້ຮັບຄວາມນິຍົມຊົມຊອບ ແລະເປັນທີ່ຮັກແພງຂອງຍາດພີ່ນ້ອງແລະໝູ່ເພື່ອນ.

ທ່ານສ່ວນໄດ້ຈາກຫລວງພະບາງ ໄປຮຽນຕໍ່ຢູ່ວຽງຈັນ ແຕ່ກໍຍັງບໍ່ລືມບ້ານເກີດ ແລະໄດ້ເປັນໂຕແທນໃຫ້ຫລວງພະບາງໃນດ້ານກິລາ ໜ້າແລະເປັນດາຣາຂອງທີມບານບ້ວງແຂວງຫລວງພະບາງ. ຄວາມເກັ່ງກ້າສາມາດດ້ານນີ້ຂອງທ່ານໄດ້ເຮັດໃຫ້ທ່ານຖືກເລືອກເຂົ້າທີມຊາດຂອງອະດີດລາດຊະອານາຈັກລາວ ແລະໄດ້ຕາງໜ້າປະເທດລາວ ໄປຮ່ວມແຂ່ງຂັນໃນກິລາເອເຊັຍຕາເວັນອອກສ່ຽງໃຕ້ ຫລື SEA Gamesອິນໂດເນເຊັຍ.

ທ່ານສ່ວນໄດ້ມີໂອກາດໄປສຶກສາຕໍ່ທີ່ໄຊງ່ອນແລະໄຕເປ. ພື່ອນຖາມຍອກວ່າ "ເຈົ້າໄດ້ຮຽນຫຍັງແດ່ຢູ່ຕ່າງປະເທດ?" ຍານາງພອງພະກາ ມັກຕອບແທນຫລິ້ນໆ ວ່າ "ລາວຮຽນກິນ ຮຽນດື່ມ ກັບຮຽນເຕັ້ນແທງໂກ້!"

ຫລັງຈາກຮຽນຈົບກັບຄືນມາປະເທດລາວ ທ່ານສ່ວນກໍໄດ້ເຮັດວຽກຊ່ວຍທຸລະກິດຂອງຄອບຄົວຢູ່ວຽງຈັນ ແຕ່ກໍຍັງສືບຕໍ່ຫລິ້ນກິລາບານບ້ວງໃນຍາມວ່າງເພື່ອຄວາມມ່ວນຊື່ນແລະອອກກຳລັງກາຍ. ນອກນັ້ນ ເພິ່ນຍັງໄດ້ຮັບເປັນຄູເຝິກໃຫ້ທີມກິລາບານບ້ວງຍິງສະມັກຫລິ້ນຂອງສາຍການບິນລາວ ຊຶ່ງໄດ້ຊັກພາໃຫ້ເພິ່ນໄດ້ພົບພໍ້ແລະຖືກຕາຕ້ອງໃຈກັບສະມາຊິກຄົນນຶ່ງຂອງທີມ. ຫລັງຈາກເຝິກແອບແລ້ວ ພວກນັກກິລາຍິງແລະຄູເຝິກ ມັກຈະພາກັນໄປກິນເຂົ້າກິນນ້ຳສິງສັນກັນເປັນປະຈຳ.ດົນທ່ານສ່ວນກັບຍານາງພອງພະກາ ກໍໄດ້ກາຍມາເປັນໝູ່ເພື່ອນ ຄົນຮັກ ແລະສາມີພັນລະຍາໃນທີ່ສຸດ.

ທັງສອງໄດ້ແຕ່ງງານກັນໃນວັນທີ 22 ເດືອນທັນວາ ປີ 1968 ຢູ່ວຽງຈັນ ແລະໃນປີ 1971 ກໍໄດ້ລູກຄົນທຳອິດ ຄືພອນສຸດາ ຕິດຕາມດ້ວຍຈັນນະພາ ໃນເວລາສອງປີຕໍ່ມາ ແລະລູກຊາຍຫລ້າ ບົໂບ່ ໃນປີ 1975. ທັງສອງສາມາດລ້ຽງດູແລະປົກປ້ອງລູກ ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າເວລານັ້ນ ຈະເປັນຊ່ວງເວລາທີ່ມີການຂັດແຍ້ງທາງການເມືອງຢູ່ພາຍໃນປະເທດ ຊຶ່ງເຮັດໃຫ້ການດຳລົງຊີວິດມີຄວາມຍາກລຳບາກ. ແລະພວກເພິ່ນກໍຮູ້ດີວ່າ ກຳລັງຈະມີການປ່ຽນແປງເກີດຂຶ້ນ.

ຫລັງຈາກລັດຖະບານຊຸດໃໝ່ເຂົ້າມາປົກຄອງປະເທດໃນປີ 1975 ທ່ານສ່ວນແລະຍານາງພອງພະກາ ກໍໄດ້ພະຍາຍາມສຸດຄວາມສາມາດເພື່ອສ້າງອະນາຄົດທີ່���ອດໄພ ໃຫ້ລູກເຕົ້າ ແຕ່ການມີສ່ວນພົວພັນກັບຄອບຄົວທະຫານແລະການເມືອງຈາກລະບອບເກົ່າ ເຮັດໃຫ້ພວກເພິ່ນບໍ່ມີຄວາມແນ່ໃຈກ່ຽວກັບອະນາຄົດຢູ່ໃນປະເທດລາວ. ເມື່ອເຫັນໝູ່ເພື່ອນຫລາຍຄົນຖືກຈັບໄປສຳມະນາ ພວກເພິ່ນກໍເລີ່ມວາງແຜນອະນາຄົດໃໝ່ສຳຫລັບຄອບຄົວ.

ໃນປີ 1979 ທ່ານສ່ວນໄດ້ພາຄອບຄົວຫລົບໜີຈາກປະເທດລາວ ໄປສູ່ສູນອົບພະຍົບທີ່ໜອງຄາຍ ປະເທດໄທ ໂດຍໄດ້ໃຫ້ເມັຍແລະລູກຂີ່ເຮືອຂ້າມຂອງໄປ ໃນຂະນະທີ່ໂຕທ່ານລອຍຂ້າມໄປເອງ ເພື່ອບໍ່ໃຫ້ເຈົ້າໜ້າທີ່ສົງໄສ. ພໍລອຍໄປຮອດຝັ່ງໄທ ທ່ານກໍໄດ້ຖືກຕຳຫລວດຊາຍແດນໄທຈັບ ແລະກັກຂັງໄວ້ເປັນເວລາສັ້ນໆ. ພໍຖືກປ່ອຍໂຕ ເພິ່ນກໍໄປເຕົ້າໂຮມກັບເມັຍແລະລູກຢູ່ທີ່ສູນໜອງຄາຍ. ໃນເດືອນກໍລະກະດາ ປີ 1980, ຄອບຄົວທ່ານສ່ວນໄດ້ເດີນທາງມາຮອດສະຫະລັດອາເມຣິກາ ແລະໄດ້ຕັ້ງຖິ່ນຖານໃໝ່ຢູ່ໃນລັດເວີຈີເນັຍ ໃກ້ກັບພີ່ນ້ອງ ຄືມື້ລາງທ່ານສົມສະນິດ ຄຳວົງສາ ອ້າຍຂອງຍານາງພອງພະກາ.

ຄືກັນກັບຊາວອົບພະຍົບສ່ວນໃຫຍ່ ທ່ານສ່ວນແລະພັນລະຍາແມ່ນຕ້ອງໄດ້ທຳການເສັຍສະລະຢ່າງໃຫຍ່ຫລວງ ເພື່ອສ້າງຊີວິດໃໝ່ທີ່ດີຂຶ້ນກ່ວາເກົ່າໃຫ້ລູກໆ ໂດຍບໍ່ໄດ້ຄຳນຶງເຖິງຄວາມຍາກລຳບາກທີ່ຕົນເອງຕ້ອງໄດ້ສູ້ຊົນ. ທ່ານສ່ວນຍອມເຮັດວຽກທຸກຢ່າງເພື່ອຫາເງິນມາລ້ຽງຄອບຄົວ ຍອມເຮັດວຽກລ້າງຖ້ວຍແລະວຽກອື່ນໆ ຢູ່ຮ້ານອາຫານ. ໃນບັ້ນສຸດທ້າຍ ທ່ານໄດ້ວຽກນຳບໍລິສັດໜັງສືພິມ Washington Post, ເຮັດວຽກກາງຄືນໃນພະແນກພິມໜັງສືພິມ ແລະເຮັດຢູ່ທີ່ນັ້ນເປັນເວລາສິບກ່ວາປີ ໂດຍມີລາຍໄດ້ພໍສົມຄວນແລະມີປະກັນໄພສຸຂະພາບໃຫ້ຄອບຄົວ. ຕໍ່ມາ ທ່ານໄດ້ປ່ຽນໄປເຮັດວຽກກາງເວັນ ເປັນຄົນຂັບລົດສົ່ງໜັງສືພິມແລະຜະລິດຕະພັນອື່ນໆໃຫ້ລູກຄ້າ ຊຶ່ງທ່ານມັກຫລາຍເພາະໄດ້ຂັບລົດໄປໃນທີ່ຕ່າງໆ.

ເຖິງແມ່ນຈະໄດ້ປະສົບກັບຄວາມລຳບາກຍາກແຄ້ນ ຕ້ອງທຳງານໜັກໃນການປັບໂຕຕັ້ງຕົ້ນຊີວິດໃໝ່ຢູ່ໃນອາເມຣິກາກໍຕາມ ທ່ານສ່ວນກໍຍັງມີເວລາໃຫ້ລູກເຕົ້າ ພາພວກເຂົາໄປຫລິ້ນສວນສາທາລະນະ ແລະສອນພວກເຂົາຫລິ້ນກິລາບານບ້ວງ ກັບເທັນນິສ. ຄວາມກ້າຫານແລະຄວາມຫວັງຂອງທ່ານສ່ວນແລະພັນລະຍາ ໄດ້ເປັນແຮງບັນດານໃຈໃຫ້ພວກລູກໆຂອງເພິ່ນ ມີກຳລັງໃຈສູ້ຊົນເພື່ອເຮັດໃຫ້ຄວາມໄຝ່ຝັນຂອງພວກເຂົາເມື່ອຫລາຍສິບປີກ່ອນຕອນອົບພະຍົບໜີຈາກປະເທດລາວມານັ້ນ ເປັນຄວາມຈິງຂຶ້ນມາ. ພອນສຸດາແລະບັນດາສັກ ໄດ້ປະສົບຄວາມສຳເລັດໃນໜ້າທີ່ການງານໃນພາກສ່ວນເອກະຊົນ ຊຶ່ງໄດ້ເອື້ອອຳນວຍໃຫ້ທັງສອງສາມາດຊ່ວຍລ້ຽງດູບິດາມານດາໄດ້ໃນຍາມເພິ່ນແກ່ຊະລາ. ສ່ວນຈັນນະພາກໍໄດ້ສ້າງຕັ້ງອົງການບໍ່ຫວັງຜົນກຳໄລ ມູນມໍລະດົກຂອງສົງຄາມ ຫລື Legacies of War ຂຶ້ນມາ ເພື່ອຊ່ວຍເກັບກູ້ລູກລະເບີດທີ່ບໍ່ທັນແຕກຢູ່ໃນປະເທດລາວ. ພໍ່ແມ່ຂອງພວກເຂົາເຈົ້າແມ່ນເປັນໂຕແບບອັນດີຂອງຄວາມສຳເລັດທີ່ໄດ້ມາຈາກການສ່ຽງແລະສູ້ຊົນເອົາຊະນະຄວາມຍາກລຳບາກ.

ໃນຊ່ວງເວລາຫລາຍໆປີສຸດທ້າຍຂອງເພິ່ນ ທ່ານສ່ວນໄດ້ລົ້ມປ່ວຍເປັນໂຣກຫົວໃຈ ຊຶ່ງເຮັດໃຫ້ທ່ານໄປມາລຳບາກ ແຕ່ທ່ານກໍໄດ້ມີຄວາມສຸກກັບການຕິດຕໍ່ໂອ້ລົມທາງໂທລະສັບກັບພີ່ນ້ອງຢູ່ເມືອງ Atlanta, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, ແລະ Las Vegas. ນອກຈາກນີ້ ທ່ານຍັງໄດ້ຮັບຄວາມມ່ວນຊື່ນຈາກໝູ່ເພື່ອນ ໂດຍສະເພາະເພື່ອນເກົ່າແກ່ແຕ່ສະໄໝເດັກນ້ອຍຈາກຫລວງພະບາງ ທີ່ແວະວຽນມາຢ້ຽມຢາມຖາມຂ່າວ ລະລຶກຄວາມເກົ່າຄວາມຫລັງກັນ ເທື່ອລະຫລາຍໆຊົ່ວໂມງ.

ໃນອາທິດສຸດທ້າຍຂອງຊີວິດຂອງເພິ່ນ ທ່ານສ່ວນຍັງປາກົດວ່າ ມີສຸຂະພາບດີຢູ່ ໄດ້ກິນເຂົ້າກັບສີພັນລະຍາ ໄດ້ອອກມານັ່ງກິນອາກາດສົດຢູ່ເຊັຍຫລັງບ້ານ ບ່ອນທີ່ທ່ານໄດ້ອອກມານັ່ງເປັນປະຈຳ

ກັບລູກໆໃນມື້ທີ່ມີອາກາດດີ ແລ້ວກໍເລົ່າເລື້ອງລາວເກົ່າໆທີ່ເປັນຄວາມຊົງຈໍາດີໆ ສູ່ພວກລູກໆຟັງ ຈົນກະທັງມື້ສຸດທ້າຍຂອງຊີວິດ. ທ່ານສ່ວນ ຄໍາວົງສາ ບໍ່ແມ່ນຈະຢູ່ໃນຄວາມຊົງຈໍາ ຮັກແພງ ແລະ ຄິດຮອດຄິດເຖິງ ຂອງພັນລະຍາແລະລູກເຕົ້າເທົ່ານັ້ນ ແຕ່ຈະຢູ່ໃນຄວາມຊົງຈໍາຂອງພີ່ນ້ອງແລະ ໝູ່ເພື່ອນໃນທົ່ວໂລກນໍາ.

Tribute Wall

Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Souane Khamvongsa

Jefferson Funeral Chapel - May 01, 2021 at 09:56 AM

Souane Khamvongsa

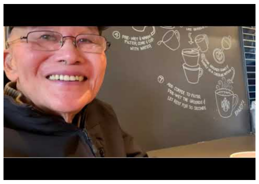
October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM

Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Souane Khamvongsa.

May 05, 2021 at 01:36 PM

AA

1 file added to the album Souane



Aaron - May 04, 2021 at 08:29 AM