

## 'TALKING ABOUT A MAN' POLICE NEMESIS MOURNED

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Mourners at the Saturday funeral of **Hayward Leslie Brown** heard him praised as a hero and mourned as a victim. They heard admonitions to turn their anger into activism and to take their anger to the bosom of God.

"While some of the devils in the street celebrate his death, we come here to celebrate his life," said Chokwe Lumumba, minister of justice of the Republic of New Afrika and one of the attorneys who defended Brown during his seemingly endless trials.

There was a soft chorus of amens when Lumumba said, "We're not talking about a monster here; we're talking about a man."

Brown's court trials began in 1973. He was caught after two Detroit shoot-outs that left one policeman dead and five wounded and after a firebombing. Brown was in and out of courts on a variety of other criminal charges from that point on.

A crowd of about 200 overflowed the seating capacity of the small Barksdale Funeral Chapel on State Fair near the Chrysler Freeway, and many stood in the hallways as the casket was closed on Brown, 29, killed Wednesday in a shoot-out at a Detroit apartment house known to neighbors as a center for drug trafficking. Police have not pieced together what happened.

BROWN CAME to public attention in December 1972 when he and two alleged accomplices -- John Boyd Jr., Brown's first cousin, and Mark Bethune, a friend -- were involved in two shoot-outs with police that left one officer dead and five wounded, one of whom was paralyzed.

The shoot-outs triggered the most massive search in Detroit police history and in the process inflamed much of the black community, making Brown a hero to some.

Bethune, Boyd and Boyd's half-brother Owen Winfield died in shoot-outs with Atlanta police in February 1973. Brown was captured in Detroit in January 1973 after the firebombing of a birth-control clinic.

Brown continued to be in the public eye through court cases for the original incidents and numerous others up to the time of his death. His charges included murder, arson, armed robbery and weapons possession, but the only conviction that was not overturned was a 1981 heroin possession charge.

Police believe that Brown and three other men were trying to rob John Harris, 52, who was shot in the chest and was in serious condition Saturday. Police are seeking the other three men.

SOME POLICE OFFICERS rejoiced over Brown's slaying, but Lumumba praised Brown as someone who had picked up the gun and fought the drug dealers on his own. But he added that "everyone need not slay the dragon the same way."

Brown is survived by his wife, Elener Johnson-Brown; his parents, Odessa and Peter Brown, and three sisters, Sarah, Allison and Charlotte.

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Caption: Photo 1973 Photo

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