



Alford Family News

August 2019 Issue

Book your rooms now for the 2020 Family Reunion

Our family will be celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Alford Family Reunion. We are commemorating this occasion at the **Alford's Lucky 45 Family Reunion** from July 10-12, 2020 in Oklahoma City. Registration information is forthcoming. Plans are underway and this one is sure to be great. You do not want to miss this special celebration of family, love and triumph.

Please help us by making sure registration information is distributed to all members of the family. We need four things from every Alford:

1. Book your room as soon as possible! We are going back to the same hotel and day party venue that was used in 2018.
2. Make sure we have your current mailing, email address and phone number:
Via email: thealfordreunion@gmail.com
Via text: 281-773-6756
3. Check our website for updates:
www.alfordfamilyreunion.com
4. Share this info with other family members!

Theme: **Alford's Lucky 45 Family Reunion**
 Dates: **July 10-12, 2020**
 Reunion site: **The Courtyard Marriot**
13511 Highland Park Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
405-418-4000
 Group Code: **Alford Family Reunion**
 Room Rates: **\$89.00**

The 2019 Graduate Edition



There are so many reasons to be proud of your Alford heritage. But the greatest sense of pride comes from the amazing accomplishments of the Alford youth. There is so much negativity in the headlines that it is easy to be discouraged by the things you see and hear about young people today. We hope that you have taken the time to congratulate every Alford graduate this season. It takes only a moment to let our youth know that you are paying attention and are extremely proud of them. We have celebrated 20 Alford graduates this season. We continue to be captivated by the academic performance and outstanding achievements of all our Alford millennials. Each of them could have made other choices, but with great parents, prayer, discipline and Alford wisdom they are all bright and shining stars for our future. We salute you all for a job well done.

~The Alford Communications Committee
 Gloria Alford-Carr & MyTay Black-Green

Donyé Alford



Join us in shouting Congratulations to **Donyé Alford** who graduated from Okemah High School on May 17, 2019. She is a recognized member of the National Honor Society,

National Beta Club, Student Council, Principal and Superintendent Honor Roll, and recipient of Multiple Merit Awards in all subjects. This stellar student will be attending the University of North Texas in the fall.

Donyé is the daughter of Roshanda Lea Alford; Granddaughter of Donnell & Augustine Alford; G/Granddaughter of Louis Milton, Sr. & Ethel Patton-Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of James Willie Alford; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette Alford.

Nathan Alford



Hats off to **Nathan Alford** who completed his Masters of Fine Arts from the University of the Arts, in Philadelphia, PA, on May 19, 2019. Our professionally trained thespian has owned numerous roles in stage plays and we cannot wait to hear about more performances on the big stage. Nathan

obtained his undergraduate degree from the Western Michigan University where he majored in Theatre Performance and Spanish.

Nathan is the son of April Alford; Grandson of George Alford, G/Grandson of Major Alford; and G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Toré Alford



A job well done by **Toré Alford** who graduated from Derby High School on May 11, 2019. Tore' was awarded a full basketball scholarship at Missouri State University where she will be majoring in psychology. We have been following this superstar as she lights up the basketball court all season and we cannot wait to follow her

collegiate success.

Toré is the Daughter of Nancy and Amos Alford, Jr., Granddaughter of Amos Alford, Sr.; G/Granddaughter of Willie "Cracker" Alford; and G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette "Fate" Alford.

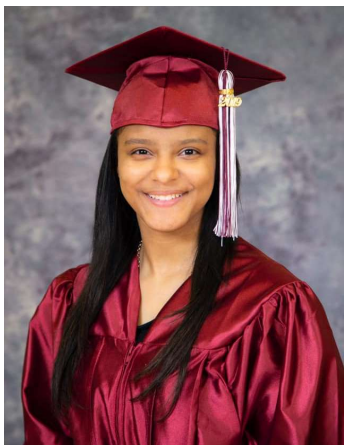
Vanessa Nicole Baker



Please join us in congratulating to **Vanessa Nicole Baker** who graduated on May 26, 2019, from prestigious George School in Newton, PA. She will be attending Oberlin College in Oberlin, OH this fall.

Vanessa is the daughter of April Alford; Granddaughter of George Alford, G/Granddaughter of Major Alford; and G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Brianna Brown



We are extremely proud of **Brianna Brown** who graduated on Friday, May 24, 2019 from Ardmore High School. We celebrate her multiple achievements and academic success. Brianna was the class of 2019 Valedictorian, on the Superintendents Honor Roll, a member of National Honor Society, a member of

the Oklahoma Indian Honor Society, FCCLA District President & Officer, Head Drum Major for 2 consecutive years, Leaflets Senior Representative, and Student Council Publicity Chair. Additionally, she has earned the Superintendent's Citizenship Award and Oklahoma Academic Scholar Award.

She will be attending the University of Oklahoma in the Fall of 2019 and is a recipient of the OU Valedictorian Scholarship. Her plans are to major in Creative Media Productions and Broadcasting.

Brianna is the Daughter of Shantel Berry; Granddaughter of Elfreda "Suzie" Patton Berry; G/Granddaughter of Elizabeth Alford Patton; G/G/Granddaughter James Willie Alford; and G/G/G/Granddaughter Lafayette Alford.

Jayston Tyree Cato

He did it with grand style! Congratulations to **Jayston**



Tyree Cato who graduated from Carl Albert High School (Midwest City, OK) on May 21st, 2019.

Jayston will be attending University of Central Oklahoma in the fall. You can catch him winning wrestling meets as a member of the Bronco wrestling team. He has been named to the 2019 Oklahoma Coaches

Association All-State Wrestling Team. He placed state

runner up for class 5A at 120lbs. Jayston is also a two time regionals west champion for the 2018 and 2019 season; as well as the 2019 All City Prep Athlete.

Jayston Cato is the son of Yolanda R. Cato; Grandson of Bernadine Patton-Cato; G/Grandson of Elizabeth Alford-Patton; G/G/Grandson of James Willie Alford; and G/G/G/Grandson of Lafayette Alford.

Blake Edwards



Congratulations to **Blake Edwards** who graduated from Temple University, Fox School of Business Honors Program in May 11, 2017 where he obtained a B.A. in Risk Management and Insurance and was a recipient of the Provost Academic Scholarship. He started a new position in

January 2019 as a Health and Benefits Analyst at insurance consulting and brokerage firm, Aon, in their Washington D.C. office. He was previously employed as a Benefit Analyst for Lockton where he interned prior to his senior year.

Blake is the son of Charles & Donna Edwards; Grandson of Zella Edwards; G/Grandson of James Willie Alford; and G/G/Grandson of Lafayette Alford.

Grant Edwards



Congratulations to **Grant Edwards** who graduated from Howard University on May 11, 2019, after earning a Bachelor of Business Administration in Supply Chain Management. While at Howard, Grant was the recipient of Institute of Supply Management R. Gene Richter Scholarship, Executive Leadership

Council (ELC) - Alvaro Martins Scholarship, and HU Legacy Academic Scholarship. He was also a Career Prep Fellow in Management Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT) and won First Place at the Inaugural 2019 Cisco Supply Chain Case Competition. In September, he will be joining consultant firm, A.T. Kearney, as a Sourcing Analyst based in their New York City office.

Grant is the son of Charles & Donna Edwards; Grandson of Zella Edwards; G/Grandson of James Willie Alford; and G/G/Grandson of Lafayette Alford.

Jasmine Edwards



Congratulations to **Jasmine Edwards** who earned a Masters in Music Therapy at New York University in December 17, 2017. She is currently a NICU Music Therapist for the Louis Armstrong Center for Music and Medicine providing music therapy services for infants and their families at the Mount

Sinai West and Mount Sinai Hospitals in New York City. She is also Music Therapist for the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music and the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services providing outreach for early childhood and child-caregiver groups.

Jasmine is the daughter of Charles & Donna Edwards; Granddaughter of Zella Edwards; G/Granddaughter of James Willie Alford; and G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette Alford.

Naomi Grace Jennings

We are very pleased to celebrate **Naomi-Grace Jennings** who graduated "1st in Class" on May 29, 2019 from Stockdale High School (Bakersfield, CA). May God continue to bless and keep her and may she continue to



work hard and flourish with the talents that He has given her.

Naomi has excelled as a Scholar-Athlete, receiving numerous academic awards and graduating with a 4.5 GPA. She is also the recipient of the 2019 PEEAK Award for best student female athlete and all-star basketball and

volleyball player. She will be attending Harvard University in the fall and plans to major in political science.

She is the Daughter of Otis Jennings; Granddaughter of Everett Milton Jennings; G/Granddaughter of John D. Jennings; G/G/Granddaughter of Effie Alford Jennings; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Alford.

Hannah Olivia Marsh



Congratulations to **Hannah Olivia Marsh** who graduated from Bear Creek High School on May 30, 2019. Hannah was inducted to the National Honors Society and completed 4 years as an AVID Scholar. She will be attending California State University Stanislaus and will major in Pre-Nursing.

Hannah is the daughter of Lisa Holman-Marsh, Granddaughter of Marcia Holman & Elbert Holman, Jr.; G/Granddaughter of Mattie Lois Young; G/G/Granddaughter of Minnie Alford-Matlock & Louis Matlock; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Michael Rattler



A round of applause for **Michael Rattler** who graduated from Putnam City West High on May 19, 2019. Michael will be attending the University of Central Oklahoma this fall, where he will be majoring in Graphic Design.

Michael is the son of Lonetta Lawrence Rattler; Grandson of Audrey Heath

& James Madison; G/Grandson of Odessa Cootey Alford; G/G/Grandson of George & Bernice Alford; G/G/G/Grandson of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Isley Ray



Congratulations to **Isley Ray**, who turned his graduation tassel on May 21, 2019. Isley completed his studies at Wichita North High School. He will be attending Coffeyville Community College in the fall.

Isley Ray is the son of Jennie V. Alford-Ray & Ivan Ray; Grandson of the Pete & Vera Alford; and G/Grandson of Lafayette G. "Fate" Alford.

Courtney Robinson



Please give an Alford shout of congratulations for a talented and beautiful young lady! **Courtney Robinson**

graduated from Harry A. Burke High School (Omaha, NE) on May 23, 2019. Her accomplishments

were many including: cheer varsity captain, recipient of 9 state track metals, awarded the Trailblazer Athletic Award and Burke High Homecoming Queen. She has been awarded a full track scholarship to attend the University of Nebraska Omaha.

Courtney is the Daughter of Yolanda Robinson & Corkie Robinson Jr. aka "Sugar Bear"; Granddaughter of Jewel & Corkie Robinson, Sr.; G/Granddaughter of Scoby & Pearl Alford; and G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette Alford.

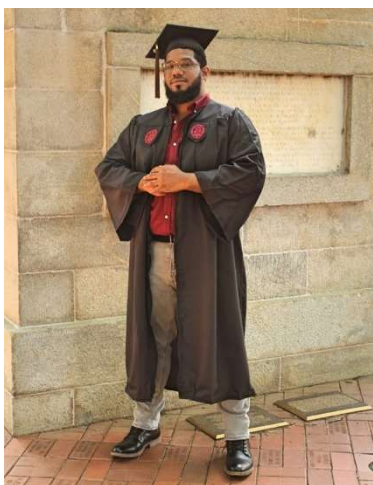
Jordan Robinson



Let's all shout Hooray for Jordan Robinson who graduated from Northwest High Magnet School on May 21, 2019. He received the Awesome award for skills USA and the Robotics team award for all 4 years. Our graduate will be majoring in engineering at the University of Nebraska Omaha this fall.

Jordan is the Son of Jeremy & Lynette Robinson; Grandson of Jewel & Corkie Robinson, Sr.; G/Grandson of Scoby & Pearl Alford; and G/G/Grandson of Lafayette Alford.

Kie'mon T. Salley



He did it in grand style! Congratulations **Kie'mon T. Salley** who graduated on May 11, 2019, from the University of South Carolina. This English major graduated as an honor student on the Dean's list and member of the Tau Sigma National Honor Society.

Kie'mon is the son of Louis Milton Alford Jr.;

Grandson of the Lavern & Louis Alford, Sr.; G/Grandson of the late James Willie Alford; and G/G/Grandson of Lafayette Alford.

Ku'unahenani Koiwa Tachera



Today we ho'olaule'a (that is Hawaiian for celebrate) Ku'unahenani Koiwa Tachera who graduated from Kanu o ka 'Āina Charter School on May 31, 2019. Ku'unahenani is exceptional honor student and prize winning rodeo competitor. Her future plans are to attend the University of Hawai'i at Hilo where she will major in Political Science and

Hawaiian Studies.

Ku'unahenani is the daughter of Wayne Tachera; Granddaughter of Gary Wayne Tachera; G/Granddaughter of Willie "Cracker" Alford; and G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette Alford.

Ariona Faye Wagner

Lets's all shout CONGRATULATIONS TO **Ariona Faye Wagner** who graduated on May 23, 2019, from Norman High School. Ariona is finalizing her college selection but she has determined she will be majoring in business.



She is the twin sister of Walter Javon Wagner; Daughter of Ruthie Wagner & Walter Wagner; Granddaughter of Victor "Cuzmo" & Faye Abraham;

G/Granddaughter of Wesley Alford & Blondell Abraham; G/G/Granddaughter of George & Bernice Alford; G/G/G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Walter Javon Wagner



A big salute to **Walter Javon "J.J." Wagner** who graduated on May 23, 2019, from Norman High School. Walter has decided on a career of service and has enlisted in the United States Army, following the example of his big brother Christopher.

He is the twin brother of Ariona Wagner; Son of Ruthie Wagner & Walter Wagner; Grandson of Victor "Cuzmo" & Faye Abraham; G/Grandson of Wesley Alford & Blondell Abraham; G/G/Grandson of George & Bernice Alford; G/G/G/Grandson of Wesley Alford; and G/G/G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Nyala Williams



Three cheers for **Nyala Williams** who graduated from Wichita Heights High School on May 15, 2019. The honors student will be attending Wichita State University this fall.

Nyala is the daughter of Sgt. Ivanisha Ray & Thomas Williams; Granddaughter of Jennie V. Alford-Ray & Ivan Ray; G/Granddaughter of the Pete & Vera Alford; and G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette G. "Fate" Alford.

Kendall Juliet Wilson



Kendall Juliet Wilson is a May, 2019 graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Psychology and a minor in Sociology.

As an UCO student, Kendall was a member of the Black Student Association and was initiated into the Alpha

Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Kendall will begin her career with Tulsa Public Schools as a City Year Tutor/Mentor. Her future goals include becoming an Elementary School Psychologist.

Kendall is the daughter of Gwynell Wilson & Robert Wilson; little Sister of Geoff Wilson; Granddaughter of Violet & Lee Virgil Patterson, Sr., G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Kyra (Williams) Young



The Verdict is in!! **Kyra (Williams) Young** is done with her AAS degree in Accounting/Business Finance from the National American University (NAU). Kyra's plan is to continue her education to attain a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. Her goal is to become a Loan Advisor or Financial Consultant. She completed her

degree with a 3.89 GPA (Double Honors) and graduated in the top 15 of her class.

Kyra is the wife of Geoffrey Young. Kyra is also the Foster Mother to two adorable little people (Jeremiah and Victoria). She is the daughter of Montria "DeeDee" Alford Alford & Ere Williams. The granddaughter of the Edward Lee Alford, Sr. (Big Ace) and Lee Ann Alford. The G/Granddaughter of George and Bernice Alford. The G/G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford. The G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Please join us again in shouting "Congratulations Alford Class of 2019!!!!"

Watch Us Soar!

Natalie Henderson

Congratulations to our own **Natalie Henderson** who has recently relocated from New York back to Detroit for a new position as Associate Producer for Live in the D. (WDIV). We are tremendously proud and will continue to follow her career. You can catch the show via live stream weekdays from 10-11am EST.:
<https://www.clickondetroit.com/live-in-the-d>



Natalie is a graduate from Central Michigan University where she majored in Broadcast/Journalism-Cinematic Arts. She also worked as a Production Assistant of Casting and Talent for MTV in New York City before deciding to return to her hometown of Detroit, MI.

Natalie is the daughter of Nancy A Moore; Granddaughter of Roxane Moore; G/Granddaughter of Alphretta M. Starks; G/G/Granddaughter of Major "Datey" Alford, Sr.; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Yolanda R. Cato - Teacher of the Year



We know how amazing teachers are, and we want to help celebrate their victories. The Alford family has a long tradition of producing awesome teachers and Yolanda Cato is no exception. This year she was selected as Millwood Arts Academy in Oklahoma City, Teacher of the Year. This University of Central Oklahoma alum has a track record of being recognized as among the best in her profession. On May 6, 2019, she was recognized as the 2018-2019 District Teacher of the Year for all Millwood

Schools. Family let's all thank her for the hard work, dedication and commitment to educating students.

Yolanda R. Cato is the daughter of Bennie Cato and Bernadine Patton-Cato; Granddaughter of Elizabeth Alford-Patton; G/Granddaughter of James Willie Alford; and G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette Alford.

Peggy Alford



We congratulate Peggy Alford who was confirmed as a member of the Facebook Board of Directors at their board meeting on May 28, 2019. We proudly acknowledge her example of leadership excellence as a black woman who is breaking barriers and driving corporate change. And yes, she is a member of our family!

To learn more about Peggy and her career as a business trailblazer, please read the following article:

<https://www.blackenterprise.com/paypal-exec-peggy-alford-first-black-woman-facebook-board/>

Peggy Alford the wife of Willie O. Alford, II; who is the son of Jo Ann & Willie O. Alford, Sr.; Grandson of George & Bernice Alford; G/Grandson of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Clearview Rodeo 2019 Recap

By Jordan L. Alford

The Old Town Road leading to the Clearview Rodeo was full of cowboys and cowgirls on August 3rd and 4th! The 39th Annual Clearview Rodeo was truly a success, not even a little rain could cool down the rodeo fever. This year's rodeo boasted Calf Roping, Bull Riding, and Pony

Express among several other events. Also, "Clearview Rodeo Champion" belt buckles were awarded to the



average winner of each event. To accompany an action packed rodeo were lots of fried fish, fried chicken, brisket, ribs, and much more to enjoy. So, if you missed this year's rodeo, be sure to make it to the 40th Annual Clearview Rodeo

on August 1st & 2nd, 2020! We'll see you there.

Bill Tibbs Replaces Davis as Girls Basketball Coach at W-S Prep

By Jay Spivey Winston-Salem Journal on May 27, 2019



The Winston-Salem Prep girls basketball team has had a revolving door of head coaches since it won back-to-back NCHSAA Class 1-A titles in 2015 and 2016.

William Tibbs, who has been hired as the team's next head coach, will be the Phoenix's fifth head coach since Eugene Love resigned in June 2016 to take a coaching position in Ohio.

Tibbs replaces Calvin Davis, who was the coach for the past two seasons.

Tibbs actually was hired to replace Love in 2016, but he had to quickly resign to be with his parents in New York.

"I think that they need stability on the girls side," said Tibbs, who is the business management and multimedia web design teacher at Winston-Salem Prep. "And I'm in the building. I'm the business teacher, so I think that would provide some stability for the girls."

Having a coach, who is also a teacher, was a plus in hiring Tibbs.

"One, is having somebody in the building," Prep Athletics Director Zach Hargett said of having Tibbs at the school. "That is the case where someone who has already coached basketball, that knows Winston-Salem Prep, that knows the community."

Tibbs' son and daughter, twins Will and Celia, both graduated from Prep.

Since the Phoenix won its second consecutive state championship in 2016, it's had its share of struggles on the court. Prep has won just six games over the past three seasons, including going winless during the 2016-17 season.

Despite the record, Tibbs feels like Davis laid a good enough foundation that he can make improvements.

"He did a good job and I'm going to build on it by having off-season and after school workouts within the time periods that I'm allowed," Tibbs said. "You've just got to get in the gym and work. That's how you get better."

It won't be easy to make steady improvements because the Phoenix plays in one of the toughest Class 1-A conferences in the state. Before this past season, the conference had won 13 straight state championships in girls basketball (Bishop McGuinness 2006-14, Winston-Salem Prep 2015-16 and Mount Airy 2017-18). The streak was snapped this year when Pamlico defeated East Surry, which also plays in the Northwest 1-A, in the state championship game.

"This goal is, hopefully we can win the conference," Hargett said. "We want to start out small. And then of course we want to make the playoffs and at least win a couple games in the playoffs."

Tibbs added a couple more goals to what he'd like to see accomplished. He wants to emulate the success that Coach Andre Gould has had as the coach of the boys at Winston-Salem Prep.

"I think we're a family. We have been a family for a while," he said. "And I think that making sure the girls get their grades, making sure we are a family and kind of piggy-back on Coach (Andre) Gould's success. I've been around Coach Gould for a while. I coached the JV boys for six years, I think."

"So I'm familiar with what it takes to get to that top level."

https://www.journalnow.com/z-no-digital/tibbs-replaces-davis-as-girls-basketball-coach-at-w-s/article_d8a28983-1f4c-5ed1-b537-1897e540b2bd.html

Bill Tibbs is the son of William Tibbs; Grandson of Troy & William Tibbs; G/Grandson of Matthenia "Emma" Coffey; and G/G/Grandson of John Henry Coffey.

Buffalo Bills Jordan Phillips

Preseason football has kicked off the beginning of the season. Make sure you are checking out one of our own Jordan Phillips while you are tuning in this season.

Phillips is a University of Oklahoma alum who majored in criminology. After playing with the Miami Dolphins for two years, he was signed by the Bills in 2018.



97 DT JORDAN PHILLIPS

6-6 341 5TH YEAR

SEPTEMBER 21, 1992 (AGE 26)

TOWANDA, KANSAS

CIRCLE HIGH SCHOOL

OKLAHOMA

ACQUIRED 2018
Claimed off waivers from Miami on October 3, 2018.

SHOUTOUTS

- Played in the final 12 games of the 2018 season for Buffalo and posted 19 tackles, two for a loss, one fumble recovery and three passes defended.
- Recovered a fumble vs. Mia. (12/30/18) after a strip sack by Shaq Lawson of Ryan Tannehill.
- Sacked Sam Darnold in win at NYJ (9/16/18) as a member of the Dolphins.
- In his 48 games played in Miami, totaled 63 tackles, 5.5 sacks, 11 passes defended and one interception.
- Notched his first NFL interception off Ryan Fitzpatrick vs. NYJ (11/7/16) and returned it 17 yards to set up a FG.
- Was All-Big 12 Second Team following his final season at Oklahoma in 2014.
- In high school, was an All-American in football playing multiple positions, including kicker, and an all-state performer in basketball and baseball as a pitcher. Threw a no-hitter as a freshman in a varsity game.

FIRST-AND-10
Now in his second season in Buffalo, JORDAN PHILLIPS entered the NFL as a 2015 second round draft pick of the Dolphins. He spent his first three-plus seasons in Miami, before being claimed off waivers by the Bills on October 3, 2018. Phillips, a product of Oklahoma, signed a one-year extension with the Bills on March 5, 2019.

IF YOU HAVEN'T 'HERD'
PRO BOWLING
Although he aspires to become a good golfer in the near future, Phillips has already mastered another individual sport - bowling. "I started bowling last season in Wichita, KS, which is the bowling capital of America," recalled Phillips. "I hired a coach and met with him twice per week and got really good. In fact, I once bowled a 299." "Once you figure out where to place your feet, the oil patterns and the type of ball you need, it became very easy to me."

SUPERHERO INK
In 2018, Phillips began a collection of tattoos on his left leg that depict many Marvel comic heroes. "I have tattoos of Black Panther, Thor, Captain America's shield, Iron Man, Baby Groot, the Avengers symbol, Hulk and Wolverine." When asked what he most likes to collect, Phillips said, "Marvel comic books, of course."

PERSONAL
Has a son, Malik. Began playing football in the 4th grade for the Wichita Golden Bulldogs, who compiled a 55-2 record during his time with them. Majored in criminology.

@BIGJ97

Jordan Phillips is the son of Sherry Alford, Grandson of Willie D. & Irene Alford; G/Grandson of Willie "Cracker" Alford; and G/Grandson of Lafayette Alford.

Welcoming Gary Tachera

On Monday, June 1, 2019, I received a heartfelt email message from the beautiful island of Hawaii asking for



information regarding the Alford family. I was preparing to lay my brother to rest that day, so I disregarded the message. Three days later, Barbie Morgan reached out to me. She was

also contacted by someone from the island of Hawaii, requesting information regarding the Alford family. Now my curiosity was piqued, but I was also hesitant, because as far I knew there are no Alford's residing in Hawaii. Barbie agreed to pass along my contact info and after a brief conversation via text and phone calls, we connected the dots. When we saw the photos we immediately knew it was true. The uncanny resemblance was undeniable, and the DNA match sealed the deal; confirming what we already knew. Since then, our new-found family has been welcomed by several Alford's via FaceTime and modern technology. We have spent hours exchanging stories, photos and family history. This summer, Loren Green had the pleasure of personally meeting the entire Tachera family for a joyous and emotional gathering. We all look forward to meeting the entire family at the next Alford reunion, if not sooner. Now you can honestly say, "Yes, I have cousins who live in Hawaii."

Please join us in welcoming **Gary Wayne Tachera**; his wife **Janice**; sons, **Wayne** and **Eric (Naomi)**; daughters, **Michelle (Arcas)** and **Samantha (Pele)**; grandchildren **Kamalani**; **Arcas "A.J." Jr.**, **Kamehanamuloa**, **Kuileipualilia "Kui"**, **Ku'unahenani**, **Ocean**, **Kaiao**, **Kaleohano** and great-granddaughters **Khenzie** and **Alina**.

Gary Wayne Tachera is the son of Willie "Cracker" Alford; and Grandson of Lafayette Alford.

A Look at Tulsa History

We are honored to share this NPR interview of **Brenda Nails Alford** who gives an eloquent account of the race massacre in Tulsa, OK. A descendant from an entrepreneurial family, she shares the account of her own successful Black Wall Street family and the horror that traumatized them. Awesome interview! Make sure you stop by and personally congratulate Brenda while you are at the Clearview Open Rodeo on August 3-4, 2020.

Brenda Nails Alford is the wife of Romeo Alford, who is the son of Romeo & Louise Alford, Sr.; G/Grandson of Wesley Alford; and G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford. She is also the proud mother of Jordan Alford.

A Survivor's Granddaughter Reflects On Tulsa Race Massacre: 'It Was A Horrendous Situation'

Published on July 23, 2019 by Robin Young

Last month before a House subcommittee, writer Ta-Nehisi Coates referred to something called “Black Wall Street” in making his case for slavery reparations.

The name refers to the Greenwood section of Tulsa, Oklahoma, which was a wealthy African American community — until it was burned to the ground in 1921 by a white mob. More than 300 African Americans were killed in what became known as the Tulsa Race Massacre.

As the 100th anniversary of the massacre approaches, the debate over reparations for descendants of slaves is beginning to make headway in the halls of Congress ahead of the 2020 election.

Brenda Alford, whose grandparents survived the massacre but lost their businesses, went most of her life not knowing what happened in Greenwood. Before the massacre, her grandparents owned a shoe shop, as well as a record store, dance pavilion and community skating rink, Alford tells Here & Now’s Robin Young.



Ruins after the race massacre in Tulsa, Okla. (Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, American National Red Cross Collection)

“They lost everything,” she says. “My reality every day of my life is that if they had not survived that day, I wouldn’t be talking to you right now.”

The violence broke out on the evening of May 31, 1921, when a 19-year-old African American man named Dick Rowland was accused of assaulting a white woman who was working as an elevator operator in a downtown building. Rowland was arrested, and when rumors that he had been lynched reached the African American community, violence ensued at the courthouse. Soon after, Greenwood was looted and burned by a white mob.

Those that lost their lives were buried in mass graves. Now, part of the debate in Tulsa is whether or not to exhume those graves. Alford says she supports exhumation.

“The discussion about the race massacre, all of that was swept under the rug for many years. Some people were threatened with their very lives of their families if they said anything. I’m glad that in this day and time it is being recognized,” she says. “I do feel like we should move forward with [exhuming the graves] because I believe it would give some closure to those who lost family members and friends in that situation.”

Interview Highlights:

On how the massacre began at the courthouse

“There was a group of men who were going to go and try to help out, and they were met with opposition. At one point according to history, a white man asked one of the black men who had a gun what he intended to do with a gun, and the black man said, ‘Use it if I have to.’ They

were there basically to try to protect Dick Rowland because it was rumored within the community that this group of white men was going to go and try to hang him.

"I had not heard about the race massacre aspect of our family history. I did not find out about it until about 2003 when I received a notification from a legal entity here in Tulsa that myself and many others were being included in a lawsuit against the city of Tulsa and other entities, basically regarding reparations for survivors and descendants of survivors of the 1921 race massacre. That's how I found out, and I have to say that I was pretty devastated."



Entrance to refugee camp on the fair grounds, Tulsa, Okla., after the race massacre in 1921. (Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, American National Red Cross Collection)

On how her family survived the massacre

"Gunshots were heard to be fired and the neighbors, the people in the community were trying to warn everybody that there was a mob coming through the city. And they were shooting and going into people's homes and having them to leave their homes, and they were going in and burning their homes. My grandparents along with their then 2-year-old daughter, their family and friends ran for their lives from our neighborhood and went to one of the parks that was farther out and stayed there until they felt like it was OK to come back, only to find their homes and their businesses looted and burned to the ground.

"As my grandparents and those in their community were running for their lives, they were being shot at and the bombs were being dropped on them as well. So it was a horrendous situation."

On what she remembers hearing about the mass graves as a child

"It was well known amongst family members of mine that mass graves were there. As I contemplated why I didn't know about the race massacre, certain stories that I heard as a very small child came back to my memory. One of those was that when our relatives, my great uncles would come to town to visit, and we'd be driving to go to maybe some location within Tulsa, and we would pass by the Oak Lawn Cemetery. The conversation would be quote unquote, 'You know they're still over there,' as we passed that cemetery and everybody in the car would agree, 'Yes.' They knew that they were still over there, and I was a small child. I didn't understand what they were talking about, but of course, now I do. I also found out later that I have a great grandmother who was also a survivor of the race massacre who is buried there. [She] was buried there in 1925. However, a lot of the records for folks who were buried before and after the race massacre cannot be found."



On how the impact of the massacre is still felt

"Our community was not able to pass on generational wealth. I watched in my time my uncle, my grandfather's son, who followed his footsteps and got his degree in shoe making, I watched as he tried to restart the business in the '70s and was unable to do it. And we saw the effects it had on him. It was absolutely horrible."

On how she thinks about Greenwood after learning about the massacre

"I remember after I found out about this aspect of our family history one of the things I remember doing is going back and just taking a walk on Greenwood on the street where I grew up as a child walking to school every day and wondering why I didn't know it. And also just thinking how could something as horrible, you know as that was,

happen in a community that I grew up in and found so loving and so peaceful. It was hard to imagine that something so horrendous had occurred in that area so many years before.”

<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2019/07/23/tulsa-race-massacre-centenary?fbclid=IwAR2SjVnRI5LvPOLOEkSKcOg4X7DUywfh9paRFwiS1pKMDvTBJAr9K-vpZE>

Jill Ryan produced and edited this interview for broadcast with Kathleen McKenna. Samantha Raphelson adapted it for the web. The segment aired on July 23, 2019.

Our Family Health

Taking Charge of Your Health

By Sharon Brown



I want you to go with me on a journey. This is a very personal journey I want to share because I believe you can benefit from my experience. There are three takeaways in my journey. But first, I'll start from the beginning.

Three years ago, I was working out hard in a body conditioning class. When I got home my left shoulder was soar, a week later my right shoulder was sore, then my wrist. By the third week it was painful to even lift my arms above my waist.

I went to a doctor who ordered a limited blood test but couldn't pinpoint exactly what was causing my pain. He suggested, its either Rheumatoid Arthritis or Lupus or some other inflammation type of disease. The next thing I know he is writing a prescription for drugs. Wait a minute! STOP RIGHT HERE, I said to the doctor. I would rather not take any drugs before we knowing the diagnosis. Doctor, can we think outside the box and discuss a natural path to take? The doctor said, he does not know anything about supplements, that's not what he learned in Medical School.

This is the first TAKEAWAY: We have a right to give input regarding our health. Our doctor should listen when we ask detailed questions about their decisions. This doctor told me if I didn't take the drugs, my Kidneys could be damaged. SCARE TACTICS??? (You're FIRED). If your doctor is not listening to you, find a new doctor that will.

After a tremendous amount of research and talking to friends, I found an Integrative and functional medicine doctor who believes finding the root cause of an illness first. Working together we developed a care plan that included, healthy food diet, supplements and limited drugs if necessary. She has saved my life.



The second TAKEAWAY: The foods we eat are in direct correlation to how healthy or unhealthy we are. I have learned how my intestinal track (gut) breaks down and absorbs nutrients. I stopped eating refined sugar, wheat, grain, corn, dairy, processed meats and anything that is not certified organic. Of course, no candy or sweet drinks with corn syrup or fructose sugar added. I eat more locally grown vegetables, wild caught fish, pasture raised turkey and lamb (no antibiotics, steroids or GMO). I bake cookies and other treats made from Almond flour, Coconut flour, or Garbanzo bean flour. My sweets come from dates, any type of organic fresh fruit, small amounts of honey or 100% Maple Syrup or a treat of organic dark chocolate. I make my own Almond Milk from organic raw almonds purchased from a local farmer. In the next article I will provide you with a few recipes.

The last TAKEAWAY is a warning. Many companies in the food industry do not make our health a priority. The bottom-line profit is their priority. Did you know that

Monsanto Chemical company Genetically Modified the SOYBEAN to make it resistant to the herbicide they spray to kill weeds? I don't eat anything with SOY in it. When you take control of your health it will save your life down the road. Read labels, talk to the butcher or the person behind the meat counter so you will know where your meats comes from. I have gone as far as to call the farmer to ask questions about what they feed their organic chickens or lamb.

Think of your body as a beautiful, expensive, luxury car; would you use regular gas or premium? My body is a Lamborghini and you will find it parked at a Farmers Market every Saturday. Take Charge of Your Health as soon as possible.

Political Action

Why you need to participate in the 2020 Census

by Arizona Corp Commissioner - Sandra Kennedy



The Census is a survey conducted to perform a national count of every person living in the country. Article I Section 2 of the Constitution mandates this survey of the country every ten years with the aim of determining representation in Congress for each state. Beginning in 1790, the 2020 Census

will be the 24th in United States history. The Census is a massive undertaking, counting an increasingly diverse and growing population. Data collection occurs throughout the census year in order to ensure all people respond to the survey.

The census is integral to our democracy. The data collected affect our nation's ability to ensure equal representation and equal access to important governmental and private sector resources for all

Americans, including across racial and ethnic lines. These functions depend on a fair and accurate census. The 2020 Census will provide up to date information on the demographic composition of the United States, and will have a wide impact on the voting landscape.

State and local funds are often distributed based on population, meaning that every person is important when advocating for funding. The strength of census statistics and data also helps inform many public policy proposals at all levels of government.

There are countless applications of Census data in both academic and commerical research, but there are four key functions of the Census that affect public policy and voting in the United States:

1. Reapportionment
2. Redistricting
3. Demographic Data
4. Government Resource Allocation

<http://www.yourvoteyourvoicemn.org/>

Going Greek

Taren Patterson

On April 14, 2019, **Taren Patterson** joined the Zeta Beta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in Wichita, KS.



A born leader, she is also serving as Chapter Vice President. Taren is a graduate of Wichita State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in social work and psychology. She is currently in graduate school and striving towards obtaining a PhD. Please join us in congratulating #6!

Welcoming her into the sisterhood are many

other notable Alford DST's including:

Hedy Alford-Jackson (Howard University)

Troy Chandler-Tibbs (Tulsa University)

Frenchie Alford (U.S. International University)
Emma Weldon
Monica Simpson (Southeastern Louisiana University)
Ayanna Spivey (Southern University)
Khala Jones (Howard University)
Shani Alford (Sacramento State University)

Taren is daughter of Charlena Patterson; Granddaughter of Charlene Patterson aka "Shorty"; G/Granddaughter of Warren "Fred" Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of James Willie Alford; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette Alford.

Sylvester "Syl" Alford Academic Achievement Award Scholarship



Erika Alford-Dookey (daughter of Sylvester) is pictured here with scholarship recipient Micah Blanton.

On June 2, 2019, the Dallas Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi awarded the first **Sylvester Alford Academic Achievement Scholarship**. The fraternity created this award to honor Syl's dedication to academics and service to community youth.

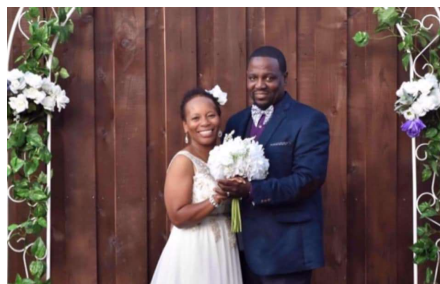
This year's recipient, Micah L. Blanton was awarded a \$3000.00

scholarship. He is a Dallas native and member of the Kappa League. This fall he will be attending The University of Texas in Austin and majoring in film.

Sylvester Joe Keith Alford, II, is the son of Sylvester Clement Alford; Grandson of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Toasting Our Newlyweds

Mark Alfred weds LaReishia Net Crisp



Alford family, the long awaited day finally came. Please join us in congratulating LaReishia Net Crisp & Mark Alfred who wed on Saturday, June 15, 2019, in Arlington, Texas. Mr. & Mrs. Alfred said "I Do!" in a

beautifully intimate ceremony surrounded by family and friends. We wish them many years of wedded bliss.

Mark Alfred is the Son of Nathaniel Alford; Grandson of Major "Datey" Alford; and G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Stephanie Morgan weds Thomas Engstrom

On June 15, 2019, a beautiful exchange of vows and declaration of love was shared by Stephanie Morgan and Thomas



Engstrom. The two were joined in marriage in Sacramento, California surrounded by loved ones and friends. Stephanie, who also serves as treasurer of the Alford Family

Council, was a glowing bride. We are extremely happy for the pair.

Stephanie Morgan-Engstrom is the only daughter of Barbie & Ken Morgan; Granddaughter of Mattie Lois Young; G/Granddaughter of Minnie (Alford) Matlock; and G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Our Growing Tree

Lyla Angel Renee Alford

Nothing is more cherished than a beautiful baby girl. Let's



welcome Lyla Angel Renee Alford who was born on April 6, 2019 at 4:22pm. Lyla weighed in at 7lbs 9oz and measured 19.5 in. Congratulations to dad Ashton Alford and mom Brandie Prieba.

Lyla is the Daughter of Ashton Alford; Granddaughter of Kevin & Lisa Alford; G/Granddaughter of George & Jeraldine Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of James Willie & Lydia Alford; G/G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette Alford.

Arii'Anna Jeanine Alford



The angels are smiling at the arrival of Arii'Anna Jeanine Alford. This precious gift arrived on June 26, 2019, weighing in at 5lbs and 8oz and measuring

18in long. Congratulations to Travez Ja'vell Alford Sr. and Tasha Nicole Baldwin on their beautiful bundle of joy.

Arii'Anna Jeanine Alford is the daughter of Travez Ja'vell Alford, Sr.; Granddaughter of Sarah Jeanine Alford & Terrence Farris; G/Granddaughter of Juanita Howard &

George Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of James Willie Alford, Sr.; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette "Fate" Alford.

Alijah Sebastián Weldon



Independence Day this year brought a special bundle of joy! **Alijah Sebastián Weldon** was born on July 4, 2019. This little firecracker weighed in at 6lbs 15.5oz.

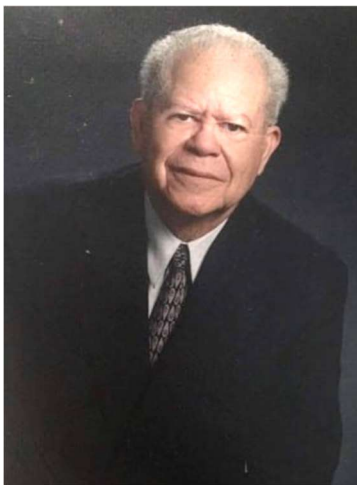
Congratulations to Jessica Weldon and Averí Weldon who are celebrating their own Weldon 5!

Alijah is the son of Averí Weldon; Grandson of Linda & William Weldon; G\Grandson of Willie Ray Weldon, Sr.; G\G\Grandson of Beatrice "Bea" Weldon; G\G\G\Grandson of Effie Alford Jennings; and G\G\G\G\Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford. Warren "Fred" Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of James Willie Alford; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette Alford.



In Memory Of...

Robert Lee "Bob" Alford

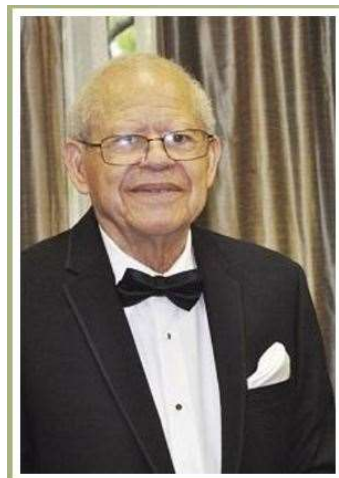


Again, death has invaded the ranks of the Alford Family. It is with great sadness we announce the loss of our beloved **Robert Lee Alford**, on June 5, 2019 in Wichita, Kansas. Other than being a kindhearted man, he was a loving father and grandfather. We have loved him in life, let us not forget him after death. He will be mourned and

painfully missed by all who were blessed to know him.

Robert Lee "Bob" Alford was born February 26, 1934 in Castle, Oklahoma, but moved to Wichita in his late teens. Bob had an unassuming, and quiet manner, that may make him one of Wichita's best kept secrets. He was owner of Alford Electric for over 30 years. He was the only African American in the United States to operate a show room for at least 20 years. He furnished lighting for many nationally known commercial businesses worldwide. Some Of the countries include Germany, Japan and the American Embassy in Italy, as well as a church in Haiti. He also furnished lighting for many homes throughout Wichita and the United States, including the home Of Andrew Young in Atlanta, GA. After retirement Bob, along with his partner Norman Massey, built the Mass Ford Plaza Shopping Center on 21st and Grove. Community Service include: Board of Directors of the Wichita Airport Authority, where he served as President two separate times; The Kansas African American Museum Board of Directors and served as president. He was also instrumental in getting the museum declared as a National Historical Landmark. He was also a member of the Hotel/Motel Association of Kansas. One of his accomplishments while serving on that board was to get the Wichita Convention and Tourism Bureau established as a separate entity instead of being under the umbrella of the Chamber of Commerce. Bob was also one of the

original businesses in Old Town. He served on the Kansas Office of Minority Business Enterprise (Kan-Ombe) and serves as president. In addition, Bob also served on the Vestry of St. James Episcopal Church and IRB Board of Reardon Clinic where he volunteered over 2000+ hours. Bob was a philanthropist, mentor and role model for many young people in Wichita.



Survived by Son Andre' Julien Alford; Daughter Tanya Braggs; Brothers Warren (Fred) & Curtis Alford, 2 Grandchildren, 6 Great-Grandchildren.

Final arrangements were entrusted to Jackson Mortuary in Wichita, Kansas. Memorial services were held at Tabernacle Baptist Church on Friday: June 14, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. in Wichita, KS. Funeral

services were held at St. James Episcopal Church on Saturday, June 15, 2019 at 1:00 P.M. in Wichita, KS.

Robert Lee Alford is the son of the late James Willie Alford & Lydia Thibodeaux Alford; and Grandson of Lafayette G. "Fate" Alford.

Ivell Ray

It deeply saddens our family to announce the untimely death of our beloved **Ivell LaVado Ray** who passed in



Wichita, Kansas on June 2, 2019. Ivell was born in Wichita, Kansas December 23, 1990. He was preceded in death by his wife, Teresa "Valencia" Ray. He will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his parents Jennie V. Alford & Ivan Ray; Brothers/Sisters: Lla, Jeneva, Ira, Ivas Ray, Ivanisha (Erick) Ray-Harris, Iko, Ivay, Jetta Ray, Ivonna

(Nehemia) Ray-Hood, and Isley Ray.

Funeral Services were held on Saturday, June 15, 2019 at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. Final arrangements have been entrusted to Jackson Mortuary.

Ivell LaVado Ray is the son of Jennie V. Alford & Ivan Ray; Grandson of the late Pete & Vera Alford; and G/Grandson of Lafayette G. "Fate" Alford.

Sarah Jeanine Alford



Our sorrow is deep after receiving news of the passing of our loved one. On June 13, 2019, our beloved **Sarah Jeanine Alford** was called to her heavenly home after suffering from a grand mal seizure. She was 43 years old and only four days from celebrating her 44th birthday.

Jeanine was a dedicated and proud mother of one son Travez Ja'vell Alford Sr.; cherished grandmother of Travez Ja'vell Alford Jr.; and excitedly awaiting the arrival of her first granddaughter Arii'Anna Jeanine Alford. Cherishing her memories are sisters Angiela Alford and Charmaine Alford; brothers, James Alford, Jr., Lamon Alford, Trevor Alford, Reginald Alford and Terrance Alford; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A memorial service was held on July 27, 2019 at 3:00pm in Midwest City, OK to honor her life and legacy.

Sarah Jeanine is the Daughter of Sarah J. & James W. "J.W." Alford; Granddaughter of Juanita Howard & George Alford; G/Granddaughter of James Willie Alford, Sr.; and G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette "Fate" Alford.

Belated "Golden" Birthday Wishes

Joe Tibbs – 80 years young on March 19, 2019

Alford Family Scholarship Donations

Please consider donating to the Alford Family Scholarship Fund. Proceeds are used to assist Alford family members who seek to further their education. To make a donation or for more information please contact our scholarship chairperson:

Erika Dooley

5700 Seneca Drive, Plano, Texas 75094

214-862-4560

note2erika@gmail.com

Questions?

Email: thealfordreunion@gmail.com

Call or Text: **281-773-6756**

Stay up to date with Alford Family News

Via Web: www.alfordfamilyreunion.com

Via Facebook: **Alford Family Reunion 2020**

Honoring our Alford Legacy

Solomon Alford fathered seven mulatto children in rural Mississippi from 1849-1880. Six of those children born on the Alford plantation to a slave girl named Lussie; while their brother resided on the nearby Coffey plantation. These seven stars, along with their mother, endured countless hardships and overcame tremendous adversity so that we may live. We stand on their shoulders and honor their Alford legacy.

★ Lussie

★ John Henry Coffey

★ Matilda Ann

★ Matthew Solomon

★ Mary

★ Rosie Lee

★ Lafayette

★ Major Clemon