



ALFORD
INFINITE BOND

Alford Family News

February 19, 2018

Extraordinary! That is the word that comes to mind when we think about our amazing Alford Family! Our reunion is quickly approaching and want to see you all there. We are only four months away from the 2018 Alford Family Reunion in Oklahoma City. Our committee is working hard to make sure you have an unforgettable. Please help us by confirming your attendance plans for the Alford Reunion as soon as possible!

Theme: **An Ordinary Family,
Doing Extraordinary Things**
Dates: **July 6-8, 2018**

PLEASE COMPLETE THESE STEPS

1. Reserve your room.

HOTEL INFORMATION

The Courtyard Marriot North
13511 Highland Park Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
405-418-4000 - Direct Number

Room Rates:

Single/King or Double/Queen: \$99.00

Suite: \$149.00

Group Name: Alford Family Reunion

**Deadline to receive this special rate is April 1, 2018; or until the block of rooms is booked.

Booking Online:

<https://www.alfordfamilyreunion.com/reunion-info-1>

Questions?

Email: thealfordreunion@gmail.com

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

2. Return your reunion registration.

If you have not received a packet, please download the forms from our website:

www.AlfordFamilyReunion.com/reunion-info-1

If you do not have internet access:

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

Complete and return your registration forms.

Via Email: thealfordreunion@gmail.com

Via Mail: **Alford Reunion 2018**

c/o MyTay Green

1721 Glen Falls Lane

Pearland, Texas 77581

Online: www.alfordfamilyreunion.com

Registration cost?

Registration is \$80 per adult

Children ages 5 - 16 are \$40

Children under age 5 are free (T-shirts will be \$10)

***Fees cover Friday night welcome, Saturday Day Party activities, souvenir T-shirt & registration bag*

How to pay?

1. Pay by debit card or credit card via Paypal
Go to www.paypal.me/AlfordReunion

You will be prompted to enter the dollar amount. The name displayed will be Stephanie Morgan – Sacramento, CA.

OR

2. Mail checks and money orders to:
c/o MyTay Green
1721 Glen Falls Lane, Pearland, Texas 77581
Make checks payable to: **Stephanie Morgan

Email your current family photos.

Please include the names of those pictured.

Via Email: thealfordreunion@gmail.com

Via Text: **281-773-6756**



The Health and Wellness Edition

I Am Walking For My Life

by Sharon Brown

In September, I was diagnosed with Polymyalgia Rheumatic or Lupus the doctor was not sure which one since I had the markers for both. I chose not to claim either and refused to take the drug Prednisone which can cause me more health problems than the disease. The pain in my shoulders and swelling in my hands made it difficult to brush my teeth, hold a glass or even get out of bed because I had no strength in my upper body to pull the covers of my bed back. My wonderful husband Edmond



got busy doing research to find an alternative to help decrease the inflammation and ease my pain. Edmond and I decided to take the Holistic route. I started taking Curcumin or Turmeric supplements, Fish Oil and other natural supplements. My body reacted immediately. I was lucky that my legs and hips are not affected, Since I

walk every day, that has kept me in good shape. I know that if my legs or hips are affected I could end up in a wheelchair, so I walking to save my life.

I also gave up bread, sugar, butter, salt, cheese, anything that causes inflammation. I was amazed at how easy it was to give up those things I used to love (cake, cookies and gelato and any kind of bread). When I think about eating a cookie, or a pastry, I say in my mind, I am eating to save my life, and I don't want that cookie anymore.

The exciting news is, I am experimenting with different recipes. There are wonderful dishes I created without adding any salt or just a pinch of Kosher salt while cooking (never on my food once it is on my plate). I thought I would die without sugar, and last weekend I made candy (with dates). Each morning I blend a smoothie for breakfast with assorted fruits and coconut milk. I eat a mixed green salad

every day prior to eating the main course (I eat less that way).

Snacks are fresh fruits and unsalted roasted nuts like pumpkin, walnuts, sunflower seeds and almonds. I read in our last newsletter that we are putting together an Alford Cook Book. I will very excited to share some of my dishes.

I am sharing my story with my family in the hopes that someone may want to reevaluate the choices they are make regarding the foods they eat and daily exercise. Because we are walking and eating to save our lives.

With Love

~Sharon Brown

2017 Graduates

LaNita Harris

On August 1, 2017. **LaNita Harris** defended her doctoral dissertation at The University of Oklahoma. Dr. Harris, who



is a faculty member in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies, defended her dissertation titled "The Role of the Black Church in Adolescent Sexuality Education."

Dr. Harris who is an Assistant Professor of Community/Public Health at University of Central Oklahoma, also possesses a master

degree of public health in health promotion sciences from OU and a bachelor's degree in health services administration from Auburn University in Alabama.

Congratulation to our very own Dr. LaNita Harris, Phd, MPH, CHES!

LaNita is the wife of Erick Harris; who is the Son of Emily Patterson Harris; Grandson of Violet and Lee Virgil Patterson; G/Grandson of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.



Lauren Dooley



Hats off to our December grad **Lauren Dooley**. Lauren graduated from Plano East High School in Plano, Texas.

We also cheered Lauren on when she signed her full scholarship with the University of Florida Gators on national signing day on Thursday, November 9, 2017. Lauren will be joined the Gators women's volleyball on a full scholarship during the 2018 spring semester. We are extremely excited and will be following the lady Gators closely next season.

Lauren is the daughter of Erika & Antoine Dooley; Granddaughter of Sylvester Alford, II, & Eileen Alford; G/Granddaughter of Sylvester Clement Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

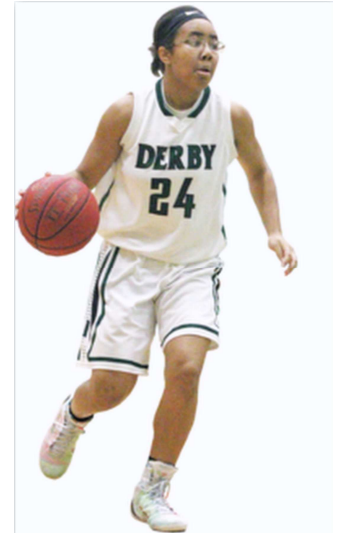


Alford Athletism!

Tor'e Alford Goes to the Hoop!

Tor'e Alford is blowing up the basketball courts in Wichita, KS. This point/shooting guard has scouts coming out to see her shine as she leads the girls' varsity team at Derby High School. Standing at 5'8", this high school junior has already given a verbal commitment to play basketball at Missouri State upon her graduation in 2019.

Please read this beautiful article about Tor'e, who is following in the footsteps and honoring the legacy of her late father, Amos Alford, Jr.:



Watch out for #24 on these video highlights:

<http://www.hudl.com/profile/6622062/Tore-Alford/videos>

Tor'e 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.

Follow Tore on Twitter: [@torealford](https://twitter.com/torealford)





Will Tibbs is one to watch!

If you are a fan of college hoops, keep your eyes on the Fayetteville State University Broncos men's basketball team. Our very own Will Tibbs (5) is the starting Guard/Forward for the Broncos and he is making a big impact on the court. This 6'7" college senior, Psychology major and member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, is one to watch! Check out his highlight reel below.



Their next game is vs. Shaw University in Raleigh, NC on Wednesday and Saint Augustine's in at home on Saturday. Get details about the Broncos schedule: <http://www.fsubroncos.com/sports/m-baskbl/sched/fast-m-baskbl-sched.html>

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

Celia Tibbs is Lighting Up the Court!



Athleticism is in her DNA! **Celia Tibbs** is the 6'2" starting Center (#14) on the Gardner-Webb University Women's Basketball team. She is performing at the top of her game and using her leadership

skills and talent to put numbers on the boards for the Runnin' Bulldogs.

Watch her interview following her 10-point, 16-rebound performance against USC Upstate leading to the Bulldogs victory on November 25th.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgQ_5KjY2P8&feature=youtu.be

They are currently holding a 17/9 record. Check out Celia's next game on Tuesday, February 20 vs. Presbyterian Blue Hose.

Celia Tibbs is the daughter of Bill Tibbs and twin sister of Will Tibbs; Grandson of William Tibbs; G/Grandson of Troy & William Tibbs; G/G/Grandson of Matthenia "Emma" Coffey; and G/G/G/Grandson of John Henry Coffey.

Congratulations to You!

Antoine Dooley

Hats off to **Antoine Dooley**, who was recently promoted to the position of Fire Captain with the Dallas



Fire Department. Captain Dooley has a passion for serving his community and has devoted 23 years to the fire department. When he is not working, you can find him spending time with wife Erika and daughters Lauren, Gabrielle, and Krista. He is also a dedicated member Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.



The Alford family, along with Dallas Love Field - Station No. 21 Salute Captain Dooley for his accomplishment.

Antoine Dooley is the husband of Erika Alford Dooley; who is the daughter of Sylvester Joe Keith Alford, II, & Eileen Alford; Granddaughter of Sylvester Clement Alford; G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.



Constable Mahogany Cherry Kennedy

Join me in shouting congratulations to **Mahogany Cherry Kennedy**! She was appointed by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to fill the South Mountain Justice Precinct Constable seat in Phoenix, AZ. She was sworn in on August 23, 2017 and is already making her mark.



Mahogany is the daughter of Sandra Kennedy; Granddaughter of Doll Bly; G/Granddaughter of Charlie Alford; G/ G/Granddaughter of Wesley Alford and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Gwynell Wilson Appointed to Serve

Congratulations to **Gwynell Wilson** who was appointed Executive Assistant to the President of the Oklahoma Baptist State Convention, Rev Anthony L Scott.

Gwynell Wilson is the daughter of Violet and Lee Virgil Patterson; Granddaughter of Emily and Wesley Dow Alford; and G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Christopher Jordan Abraham Enlists

Family please congratulate and keep **Christopher Jordan Abraham** in your prayers. We salute "Jordie" who enlisted in the United States Army on July 17, 2018. He will be serving in army intelligence.



He is the son of Ruthie and Walter Wagner; Grandson of Victor "Cuzmo" and Faye Abraham; G/Grandson of Wesley Alford and Blondell Abraham; G/G/Grandson of George and Bernice Alford; G/G/G/Grandson

of Wesley Alford; and G/G/G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.



Our Growing Tree

Noah Andre Xavier Tunstill



We are happy to announce a new addition to the Alford Family. Please welcome handsome **Noah Andre Xavier Tunstill**, who made his grand entrance on January 23, 2018. He weighed in at 7lbs 15 oz. and 21 in. long. Congratulations to

the parents Taylor and Mike Tunstill.

Noah is the son of Taylor Tunstill; Grandson of Lisa Mapps-Weldon and Charles Weldon, Jr.; G/Grandson of Charles Weldon, Sr.; G/G/Grandson of Beatrice Weldon; G/G/G/Grandson of Effie Jennings and G/G/G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Willow Brooke Park



We are tickled pink about our newest addition to the family. **Willow Brooke Park** made her regal debut on New Year's Day at 3 o'clock. This tiny princess weighed in at 6lbs 3oz and measured 16in. long. The JLA

Talent duo Kendall and Summer Park have produced their greatest work!

Willow is the daughter of Kendall Park; Granddaughter of Maxine Weldon; G/Granddaughter of Bea Jennings

Weldon; G/G/Granddaughter of Effie M. Alford Jennings; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

She is also the great niece of Charles Weldon and Anna Weldon.

Isaiah Lee Marshall



Our family has been blessed with a new little prince. We happily welcome **Isaiah Lee Marshall** who was born on December 21, 2017.

He weighed in a 6lbs 14oz and measure 20.5 inches. Congratulations to proud parents Dominique and Daniel Marshall and big sister Gianna.

Isaiah is the son of Daniel Marshall; Grandson of Debbie Tibbs-Collins; G/Grandson of Joe Tibbs; G/G/Grandson of Troy Tibbs; G/G/G/Grandson of Matthenia "Emma" Coffey; and G/G/G/G/Grandson of John Henry Coffey

Anthony Jerome Kizer, III



We have fallen in love with our latest addition to the Alford family. Please welcome **Anthony Jerome Kizer, III** who made his grand entrance on November 8, 2017. He weighed in at 7lbs 7 oz. and

21 in. long. Congratulations to the parents Brittany Alford and Jerome Kizer, II!



Baby Anthony is the son of Brittany Alford; Grandson of Reginald and Tonya Alford; G/Grandson of J.W. Alford & Venita Hicks; G/G/Grandson of George & Elizabeth Alford; G/G/G/Grandson of James Willie Alford; and G/G/G/G/Grandson of Lafayette Alford. Proud aunt and uncle are Dana Carter and Mark Alfred.

In Memory Of . . .

Samuel "Sonnyboy" Whitfield



It is with deep sadness that we share new of the passing of **Samuel "Sonnyboy" Whitfield**. On January 19, 2018, he was called called home after a long battle with liver cancer.

Services for Sonnyboy were held on January 29, 2018 at Antioch Full Gospel Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, OK. He was laid to rest with full military honors at Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin, OK.

Sonnyboy is the late husband of Sherry Madison Whitfield; Sherry is the of Daughter of Audrey Heath and James Madison; Granddaughter of Odessa Cootey-Alford; G/Granddaughter of George and Bernice Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

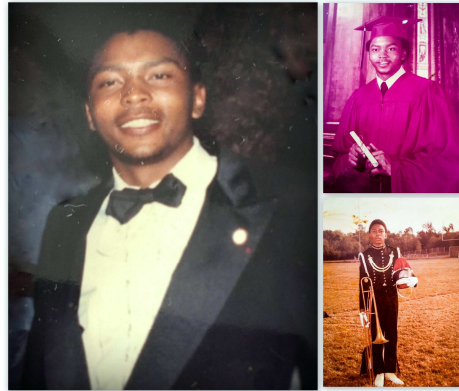
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Kenneth Ray Alfred

Wherefore, it has pleased our Lord and Saviour to call from labor to reward our beloved **Kenneth Ray Alfred**, who departed this life on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, in Tulsa, OK, at St. John's Medical Center.

Kenneth, son of the late Nathaniel Alfred and Virtle Lee Freeman, born August 16, 1965, in Okmulgee, OK. He graduated from Okmulgee High School in May 1984, and Oklahoma State University Technical Branch, Okmulgee,

OK, in May 1987. He was pursuing a career in Culinary when he fell victim in a train/vehicle accident that left him mentally and physically disabled.



Kenneth loved life. He took pleasure in his family, friends, and cooking. He is preceded in death by a sister, Tamara Raynetta Rucker. He is survived by

three brothers, Terrell Raymon Rucker of Tulsa, OK, Christopher Alfred of San Antonio, TX, Mark Alfred of Dallas, TX; and one sister, Dana Carter of Dallas, TX, along with an aunt, uncle and numerous cousins.

Services were held on Friday, January 19, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. at the Precious Memories Chapel-Okmulgee with Rev. Greg Richardson, officiating. Interment followed at Woodlawn cemetery.

www.houseofwinn.com/obituary/kenneth-ray-alfred

Kenneth is the son of Nathaniel Alford; Grandson of Major "Datey" Alford; and G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

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Alphretta Minnie Starks

The Alford family sadly mourns the loss of **Alphretta Minnie Starks**. She was called home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, in Detroit, Michigan. She was 85 years old. Services were held at O.H. Pye III Funeral Home in Detroit, Michigan on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.





Alphretta was born to the union of Major and Serverniar Alford Sr. in Vernon, Oklahoma on September 13, 1932. She was the oldest of three children, two brothers Major Jr. and George (who both preceded her in death).

Alphretta accepted Christ at an early age and attended International Gospel Center under Reverend Marvin N. Miles, Pastor. Alpharetta attended Detroit Public Schools and graduated from Detroit Commerce high School She pursued her secondary education at Wayne County Community College of Nursing School.

Alphretta (Thet) was joined in holy matrimony to the late Otheola Dean where two daughters were born, Nancy Y. Cooper (who preceded her in death) and Roxane S. Moore.

In 1951, Thet started work at the Detroit Arsenal (U.S. Army Tank and Automotive Command) where she met the love of her life, Russell Starks who preceded her in death.

Alphretta retired in 1988. Thet enjoyed bowling, playing bingo and was an avid reader, studying the Bible and doing crossword puzzles. Thet's life was a devoted to friends and family, always sharing and caring for the needs of others.

She is leaves to cherish her memories: one daughter Roxanne S. Moore (Harold), one granddaughter Nancy A. Moore-Clark, one grandson William D. Cooper, three great-grandchildren Jennise, Natalie and William Jr. and one great-great-grandchild Sharvay, and a host of many loving nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Thet is the daughter of Major "Datey" Alford; and Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

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Laverne Maxine Meeks-Alford



Our family mourns together with every loss. Together we shed tears at the passing of **Laverne Maxine Meeks-Alford** who transitioned to her heavenly home on Thursday, October 12, 2017. Laverne was born and lived her years in the city of Wichita. Affectionately known as Verne, she was

educated in Wichita public schools. She worked as a bus driver for the City of Wichita, where she later retired. She celebrated her 83rd birthday on April 9.

Memorial services were held on October 20, 2017 at Jackson Mortuary in Wichita, Kansas.

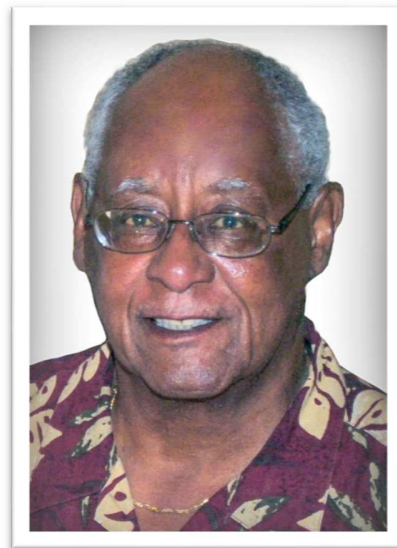
Loved by many, Verne is survived by her daughter Lisa Alford; son Louis Alford, Jr; 17 Grandchildren; 39 Great-Grandchildren; and 6 Great-Great-Grandchildren.

Laverne is the widow of Louis Milton Alford, Sr.; Louis Milton, Sr. is the son of James Willie Alford; and G/Grandson of Lafayette Alford.

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Sylvester Joe Keith Alford, II

It is with heavy hearts that we share news of the passing of



Sylvester Joe Keith Alford, II. Sylvester, 74 of Dallas, Texas died unexpectedly on September 26, 2017. He was born to Sylvester Clement Alford and Decker Mae Russell in Boley, Oklahoma on September 14, 1942. Sylvester was a graduate of Wichita State University. He served in the Army

Reserve from 1966–71 and the National Guard in Kansas. He later retired from the Xerox Corporation.

Sylvester was married to Eileen Taylor Alford for forty-seven years until her recent passing. Together they raised three children in the Dallas area.

Affectionately known by many as Syl, he was a dedicated and loyal member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He was also a committed to preserving the Alford legacy, serving as the family genealogist and custodian of the Alford family memorials.



He is survived by his daughter Erika Y. Alford Dooley (Antoine); sons Sylvester “Joey” Alford, III and Scott Wesley Alford; and three granddaughters, Lauren, Gabrielle, and Krista.

A memorial service will be held at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 5923 Royal Lane, Dallas, TX Friday, September 23, 2017 at 11 a.m.

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

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Nyla Jewel Weldon

There are some people that leave a lasting impression on



you. **Nyla Jewel Weldon** was that kind of spirit. Nyla made her transition August 23, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. after a long battle with Alzheimer’s.

Born to Beatrice and Roosevelt Weldon in Holdenville, Oklahoma on

December 25, 1934. She is the Grand-daughter of Effie Alford Jennings and Great Grand-daughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

In 1944, the Weldon family relocated to California where Nyla and her siblings were raised.

Nyla grew up to be a hard-working divorcée living in San Francisco with a career in various jobs in the high end department stores. She developed a talent for style and cosmetics and represented companies like Coty Cosmetics, Max Factor and progressed to the position of Regional Director of Fashion Fair Cosmetics at the Military Public Exchanges. She traveled around the country and to Japan and Hong Kong training cosmetic sales staff.

Nyla is survived by her daughter, Sharon Brown, her grandson William Lewis, brother Charles Weldon, sisters Ann Weldon, Maxine Weldon, May Frances Weldon, beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of cherished friends in-laws and other family members.

Services will be held at Rucker’s Mortuary in Bakersfield California.

In lieu of Flowers, please send donations to the Alzheimer’s Association who continues to offer support to the family and research to find a cure for Alzheimer’s.

Her Celebration of Life will be held in Bakersfield California, Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 11am to 12:30p at Ruckers Chapel 301 Baker Street, Bakersfield, CA 93305.

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 chairpersons:

Edward & Hedy Jackson
3210 Sheehan Drive
Land O Lakes, FL 34638
813-948-0323
edjackson@tampabay.rr.com

Honoring Our Legacy

The seven children of Solomon Alford and Lussie, were born on the Alford plantation in Mississippi from 1849-1880, to a white slave owner and black female slave. These seven stars endured countless hardships and overcame tremendous adversity so that we may live. We stand on their shoulders and honor their Alford legacy.

- ★ John Henry Coffey
- ★ Rosie Lee
- ★ Matilda Ann
- ★ Lafayette
- ★ Matthew Solomon
- ★ Major Clemon
- ★ Mary