



**ALFORD**  
INFINITE BOND

# Alford Family News

March 2019 Issue

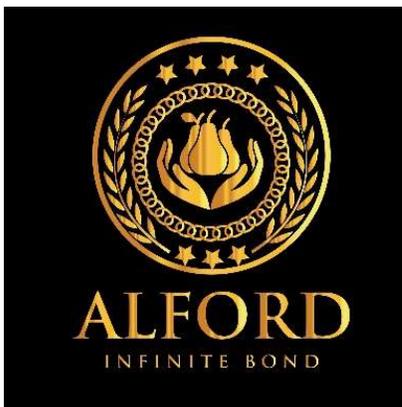
## Save The Date for the 2020 Family Reunion

It will be here before you know it! Get ready for the **Alford's Lucky 45 Family Reunion** in Oklahoma City on **July 10-12, 2020**. You do not want to miss it!

Plans are underway and this one is sure to be great. We need three things from every Alford:

1. Send us your current mailing, email address and phone number:  
**thealfordreunion@gmail.com**
2. Check our website for updates:  
**www.alfordfamilyreunion.com**
3. Save the date and make sure the family knows!

## The Alford Family Crest – What Does It Mean?



On September 11, 2013, three members of the Solomon Alford family, Emmett R. Roberts, Willie O. Alford and Mytia R. Green, conducted a telephone conference to discuss matters concerning the Alford family. During that call, a discussion ensued regarding the need to uniquely identify our particular lineage of the Alford family. The

three decided to conduct research to determine if an Alford Crest was already in existence. After much research, the trio decided a unique family crest was necessary.

Following multiple iterations, Emmett, Willie and Mytia agreed upon an initial design. The crest still honors the original elements of the British Alford heraldic and The Alford American code of arms. However, it uniquely signifies the seven stars that denote the African American children of Solomon Alford. The team decided to present the designs at the 2014 Alford Reunion in Oklahoma City.

The crest was not presented at the 2014 Alford reunion. However, the Alford communications committee used it to brand the 2016 reunion. In 2016, the crest was redesigned. The new crest possessed a circular design and was done in a single color, making it more cost effective for printing. The 2018 reunion hosts, Mytia Black and Gloria Carr used it to brand the 2018 Alford family reunion.

On July 7, 2018, the redesigned crest was presented at the Alford business meeting. It was during this business meeting that the descendants of the Solomon Alford family unanimously voted the crest as the official Alford Family crest. The colors black and gold were also voted as the official colors for the Alford Family crest.

**Stars** – The 7 stars (or mullets) represent the children of Solomon Alford. The star symbolizes honor, achievement and hope.

1. John Henry Coffey, b. 1849
2. Matilda Ann Alford, b. 1858
3. Matthew Solomon Alford, b. 1860
4. Mary Alford, b. 1861
5. Rosie Lee Alford Gammill, b. Oct 1867
6. Lafayette "Fate" Alford, b. Oct 1868
7. Major Clemon Alford, b. Mar 1880

**Chain** – The connection of our endless familial lineage  
**Pear** - denotes liberality, felicity and peace according to ancient heraldic authorities

- Olive or Laurel Leaves** - Peace and concordance.
- Hands** - Denotes union, alliance and peace.
- Rings/Circle** – A circle has no beginning or end and is therefore a symbol of infinity.
- Gold Color** – The gold accent denotes generosity
- Black Color** - The black denotes heritage and constancy
- Motto** - Never Ending, or Infinite Bond.

\*The full definition of the Alford family crest and its history can be found on the Alford Family Reunion Website.

## Congratulations Alford's!

### Commissioner Sandra Kennedy



In this season of negative and divisive political news, let us applaud the astounding number of political firsts for our country. Congress now has its first Native American woman, Muslim woman and youngest female member ever. Likewise, a record number of women of color are being

sworn into the House of Representatives this year.

We also celebrate the reelection and Swearing-in of our own, **Commissioner Sandra Kennedy** who was voted Arizona Corporation Commission on November 14, 2018. The inauguration ceremony took place at the Arizona Capitol in Phoenix at 2:00pm GMT on Monday, January 7, 2019.

Sandra has had a career of political and public service. She served as a member of the Arizona state senate from 1992 to 1998 and in the Arizona House of Representatives from 1986 to 1992. This will be her second term serving as the Arizona Corporation Commissioner, previously holding the office from 2008-2012. We are extremely proud of her accomplishments. She was the only African

American elected to a state wide office in the Arizona election. Now that is history!



Arizona Corporation Commissioner Sandra Kennedy would like to increase Arizona's reliance on clean energy sources with a target date of 2028. Kennedy's plan would include microgrids for electrical production and use of battery storage for electricity. Details of her clean energy plan can be found the on the Arizona PBS website.

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

### Constable Mahogany Cherry Kennedy



We are extremely proud of **Mahogany Cherry Kennedy** (D) who won the general election for Maricopa County Constable South Mountain in Phoenix, AZ on November 6, 2018. She was previously appointed by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to fill the seat in 2017. Mahogany

was sworn in on January 9, 2019 and this new mommy 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.

### Daejha Campbell



We salute **Daejha Campbell** who has completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base on November 30, 2018 and is now currently serving in the United States Air Force stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi. Thank you Daejha for your service.

Daejha is the daughter of Mark Alfred; Granddaughter of Nathaniel Alford; G/Granddaughter of Major "Datey" Alford; and G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

## Alford's Graduates

### Shaunte Denise Cheatham



Congratulations to **Shaunte Denise Cheatham** who graduated from Mesa Community College and Chamberlain College of Nursing concurrently on Monday, December 10, 2018. She obtained an Associate's Degree in Nursing and Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. We celebrate our new Registered Nurse and wish her much success as she pursues a career as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner.

Shaunte is the daughter of Sheila Saddler; Granddaughter of Doll Bly; G/Granddaughter of Charlie Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of Wesley Alford and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

### Taren Patterson



Cheers to **Taren Patterson** who graduated from Wichita State University on December 16, 2018. Taren earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Psychology and is currently in graduate school. She has no plans on stopping until she



obtains a PhD. Let's wish her much success on the way to achieving those goals!

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

## Brooke Hardwick



Give a big round of applause to **Brooke Hardwick** who graduated from Florida Career College on January 18 2019. Brooke completed the Medical Assistant Certification program and is already working as an X-Ray technician. Her plans are to pursue an Associate's

Degree in Health Administration.

Brooke is the Daughter of Gary Alford, Sr.; Granddaughter of Edward "Big Ace" & LeeAnn Alford, Sr.; G/Granddaughter of George & Bernice Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

## Watch Us Soar!

### Alford one, one for Alford: Family sticks together through tragedy

VYPE KANSAS – The Leader in High School Sports

After Derby High assistant principal Alison Strecker asked to see **Tor'e Alford** on April 20, 2017, Alford, then a sophomore, thought she was in trouble. It was so much worse.

"They told me (my dad) had a heart attack," Alford said. "... I had dropped my mom off at the hospital to go find my brother at (Wichita) East High when my mom called me. She's yelling and crying, 'come back, come back!' When I get there, they told me he's dead. "There was nothing I could do. I just sat in the chair and cried. I threw a couple of tissue boxes. I punched the couch. He's a healthy person. He played basketball with kids every day."

But 20 months ago, Amos Alford, suffered a fatal heart attack while playing basketball. Amos was a longtime East boys basketball assistant coach and also a security officer at Griffenstein Wells, an alternative school in Wichita. His death devastated the Alford's. "He had an influence on everyone," said his wife, Nancy. "It wasn't just a kid. It was any and everybody. He always had an answer for everything and tried to have a solution.



Basketball has long been the chosen conversation topic for the Alford family. Amos Sr. played at Coffeyville Community College and Pittsburg State. He also played overseas.

Tor'e, a senior, is a standout point guard for Derby, where she helped lead the Panthers to the 2018 Class 6A title. She has signed to play at Missouri State and is a key to Derby's unbeaten start in December. **Amos Jr.**, is a junior at East, where he has established himself as a scoring threat, especially from the perimeter. Both wear No. 24, the same number Amos Sr. wore.

"He would talk about basketball every day of his life and nag you about it," Amos Jr. said. "Literally, you wake up, and it's basketball. You go to sleep, and it's basketball. You eat dinner, it's basketball." Tor'e added: "He's probably the reason me and my brother do play basketball. ... We've been playing our whole lives. There's like three basketball goals in the backyard, two in the front. "We play the old-school way – when the street light

is on, we put the goal under the street light. We'd play five on five, all night, often until 2 a.m. It was mainly guys and then me."

Tor'e is a pass-first player with the ability to drop a no-look pass with ease. Amos Jr. is a scorer, who uses his lean, 6-foot-3 frame, to take advantage of mismatches on the perimeter.

Amos Sr. coached Tor'e and Amos Jr. – who also goes by the nickname Munch – in the summers. Amos Jr. played up a year on the same team with Tor'e for at least three years. It was the family's favorite time. "We were all there together," Nancy said.

And it's also when Tor'e saw her game flourish even more. "When I was younger, I was too big and they couldn't do anything with me," Tor'e said. "As I got older, and they had more height and speed, I had to work at it to stay in front of them. (My dad) treated me like I was one of them, expected me to stay in front of my man, stop the defender, hit the open shot."

Losing Amos Sr. devastated Tor'e, Amos Jr. and Nancy. But it has not destroyed them. After talking about his death for this story, Tor'e and Nancy sat in the car and cried. Nancy was at the gravesite as she recalled that she feels like her family lost the year following Amos Sr.'s death. "It's sad to say, but I wonder why (God) didn't just take me and leave him," Nancy said. He's not here to see that Tor'e still isn't shooting as much as he wanted, that her no-look passes still confuse defenses and that she's set on a 6A repeat. He's not here to see Amos Jr. helping East to a 4-1 record in December. To see him getting quality varsity minutes and hitting big shots. While Nancy prays and wishes Amos Sr. was still here, she's thankful her children had the time they did with him. And they're sticking together.

While Tor'e plays in the AVCTL, she only missed one of Amos Jr.'s City League games in December. "We are actually really close," Tor'e said. "I'd do anything for him, and I feel that he'd do anything for me. It's always been that way."

Amos Sr. still drives the two. Nancy makes sure of that. "I tell them that they're not doing it for themselves or for me – they're doing it for their father. He'd want to see them finish it out," Nancy said.

Amos Jr. is motivated by his father's memory. "Every time I don't want to go to practice or anything, I think about what he would do," Amos Jr. said. "He'd get up and go regardless. He'd want me to be hungry, to get it done." Tor'e had a similar response. "Everything I do is for my dad," she said. "Let's say I'm about to play a game, I think that I'm going to play this for him. Or when I don't want to wake up in the morning, I go to school for him."

And Amos Sr. would be proud of his children. "I think he'd be proud of how she has grown as a player and as a person," Amos Jr. said of his sister. "She's stronger. She goes out of her way to be a good person. She's shooting the ball way better and more confidently." As for how Amos Sr. would feel about his son, Tor'e said he'd probably be surprised. "Just how he's playing in the varsity game," Tor'e said. "Honestly, it caught me by surprise. He's D-ing up, he's shooting it well, he's dribbling, he's getting steals, taking charges. I think he's doing great."

*Reprinted by the January 27, 2019 article VYPE KANSAS – The Leader in High School Sports by Brad Hallier & Joanna Chadwick*

## All State Wrestler Jayston Cato



Prepare to lose if you challenge **Jayston Cato** to a wrestling match! This senior at Carl Albert High School in Midwest City, OK cannot be stopped. He has been named to the 2019 Oklahoma Coaches Association All-State Wrestling Team. Jayston also did an outstanding job during the 2019 Oklahoma state tournament. 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.



Jayston Cato is the son of Yolanda 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.

### Clearview Rodeo 2019



Get ready to saddle up family! The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Open Rodeo will be held August 3-4, 2019 at the Clearview Memorial Arena. You do not want to miss out on the opportunity to share in the fun,

family and excitement! If you are interested in placing an ad in the souvenir booklet or for more information contact [clearviewrodeo@yahoo.com](mailto:clearviewrodeo@yahoo.com) or 918-605-0955.

Production Director - **Romeo J Alford, II**

## Our Growing Tree

### Bryant Lamonte Kennedy, Jr.



We welcome a new prince into the family! On January 25, 2019, our family was blessed by the arrival of **Bryant Lamonte Kennedy, Jr.** He weighed in at 7lbs 15oz. This is the first born

for proud parents Mahogany & Bryant Kennedy, Sr.

Bryant is the son of Mahogany & Bryant Kennedy; Grandson of Sandra Kennedy; G/Grandson of Doll Bly; G/G/Grandson of Charlie Alford; G/G/ G/Grandson of Wesley Alford and G/G/G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

### Jemini Joseff Alford



Say hello and welcome Mr. Handsome **Jemini Joseph Alford**, who was born on January 25, 2019. He weighed in at 6lbs 5oz and measured 20in long. Proud mommy, Jasmine Teaira Alford cannot take her



eyes off her little bundle of joy.

Jemini is the Son of Jasmine Alford; Grandson of Josephine Alford; G/Grandson of Scoby & Pearl Alford; G/G/Grandson of Lafayette Alford.

### JaLeaha DeAnn Crosby

Alford family we have something to celebrate! Beautiful little **JaLeaha DeAnn Crosby** was born on January 15, 2019 at 9:33am. She weighed in at 7lbs 8oz and measured 20in long. Please shout congratulations to parents, Cassandra Davison & D'andre Crosby.



JaLeaha is the daughter of Cassandra Davison & D'andre Crosby; Granddaughter of Cherry Alford-Davison & Henry Davison; G/Granddaughter of Pete & Vera Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette & Jennie Alford.



### August River Seyfried



August River Seyfried  
Dec 29, 2018 - 7lbs 5oz 21.5in

He has arrived to conquer hearts. Please join us in welcoming **August River Seyfried**. Master August made his grand entrance on December 29, 2018. He weighed in at 7lbs 5oz and measured 21 ½ in

long. Proud parents, Jake Seyfried and Jessica Seyfried are overjoyed about their new arrival.

August is the son of Jake Seyfried; Grandson of Stephanie & Russell Seyfried; Grandson of Marcia Holman; G/Grandson of Lois Matlock; G/G/Grandson of Minnie Alford-Matlock; and G/G/G/Grandson of Matt Alford.

### Yasmin Delois LeeAnn Alford

A precious jewel has entered our family. Please welcome little Yasmin Delois LeeAnn Alford who was born on



Yasmin Delois LeeAnn Alford

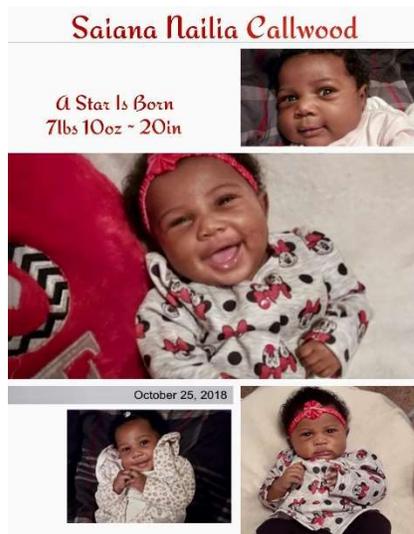


12/4/18 - 6lbs 15oz

December 4, 2018 at 10:13am. She weighed in at 6lbs and 15ozs. Yasmin is the pride and joy of her mom Stephanie Alford and Edward "Bigman" Alford, III.

Yasmin is the daughter of Edward Alford, III; Granddaughter of Edward Alford Jr.; G/Granddaughter of Edward "Big Ace" & LeeAnn Alford, Sr.; 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.

### Saiana Nailia Callwood



Saiana Nailia Callwood

A Star Is Born  
7lbs 10oz - 20in

October 25, 2018

A little star was born on October 25, 2018! Saiana Nailia Callwood made her grand debut and weighed in at 7lbs 10oz and measured 20in. Join us in saying "Congratulations" to proud new parents Stephany Cofield and V.I. Callwood.

Saiana is the daughter of Stephany

Cofield; Granddaughter of Aquila Emery; G/Granddaughter L.C. & Erma (Alford) Emery; G/G/Granddaughter of Charlie & Asalee Alford; G/G/G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

### ZaNya De'Shenna LaShay Hill

Congratulations to Davion Hill & Dremionna Johnson on the birth of their beautiful baby girl **ZaNya De'Shenna**



**LaShay Hill**. Little ZaNya arrived on October 12, 2018 and weighed in at 6lbs 4oz and measured 18in long. She is already stealing hearts!

ZaNya is the daughter of Davion Hill;

Granddaughter of Roshanda Lea Alford; G/Granddaughter of Donnell & Augustine Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of Louis Milton & Ethel Patton-Alford; G/G/G/Granddaughter of James Willie Alford and G/G/G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette Alford.

# Going Greek

## Kendall Juliet Wilson



On Sunday, November 18, 2018, **Kendall Juliet Wilson** joined the Beta Beta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Welcoming her into the sisterhood are many other notable Alford AKA's including: her mother Gwynell Patterson Wilson, aunt Emily Patterson Harris, grandmother Violet Alford Patterson, Wessylne Alford Simpson, Lynne Simpson-Harding,

Brenda Nails Alford, Deandra Bradley, Kim Smith, Valerie Hill, Ericka Alford Dooley, Latoya Moore, Amreen Harris and Nancy Moore.

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

## Sydney Michelle Scott



On Sunday, November 18, 2018 Sydney Michelle Scott became a proud member of joined the Upsilon Theta Omega Chapter Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. in Stillwater, OK.

Also, welcoming her into the sisterhood are many other notable Alford AKA's including: her mother Lynne Simpson-Harding, grandmother Wessylne Alford Simpson, Great-Aunt Violet Alford Patterson,

Gwynell Patterson Wilson, Emily Patterson Harris, Brenda Nails Alford, Deandra Bradley, Kim Smith, Valerie Hill, Ericka Dooley, Latoya Moore, Amreen Harris and Nancy Moore.

Sydney is the daughter of Lynne Simpson-Harding; Granddaughter of Wessylne A. & James Allan Simpson; G/Granddaughter of Emily & Wesley Dow Alford; and



G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Nearly 70 years after sisters Violet Alford Patterson and Wessylne Alford Simpson became members of Alpha Zeta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at Langston University, their granddaughters were initiated on the same

day. What an awesome legacy!

# In Our Prayers

## Erica Robinson



We need your prayers and support for one of our own, **Erica Robinson**. On Tuesday, February 6, 2019, she was senselessly shot while sitting on the front porch of her Omaha, Nebraska

family home. This beautiful young lady has been in a fight for her life and is now recovering at home from surgery. While she has a long road to full recovery, we are thankful for the medical team and support she has received thus far. However, we stand in agreement as a family against the negative Omaha press and character assassination that Erica and her family has had to undergo. She is from a loving and hardworking two-parent family that have served their local community. Please join us in praying for Erica, her parents Corkie Robinson Jr. & Yolanda



Robinson, her three sisters, grandparents and all impacted by this senseless act. Prayers for Erica. #WeStandUnited

Erica is the Daughter of Corkie & Yolanda Robinson Jr.; Granddaughter of Jewel Robinson; G/Granddaughter of Scooby & Pearl Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette Alford.

## In Memory Of . . .

### Louis Milton Alford, II



Our family has lost another great treasure. We are deeply saddened to share news about the passing of **Louis Milton Alford, II**. Milton was called home on February 19, 2019. Milton was born in Wichita, Kansas on August 7, 1958. He worked as a self-employed construction worker for many years in Wichita and Oklahoma. Always a bright light in the Alford family, Louis rarely met a stranger. He passed away in Okmulgee, Oklahoma at the age of 60. His presence, laughter, humor and charm will be missed by so many. Please be in prayer for his children, siblings and extended family as they go through this difficult time.

The homegoing celebration was held on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 1:00pm at New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Wichita, KS. Services were attended by numerous Alford's from far and wide.

He is preceded in death by his parents Louis Milton Alford, Sr. & Laverne Maxine Nulan; sisters Lisa Alford and Lydia "Angie" Alford; brother Larry Yates; and sons Toney T. Alford and Lemmie E. Alford. Left to cherish his memories includes brother Donnell Alford; sisters Frenchie Alford,

Laura May Calahan, Joyce Gethan and Nancy Winters; sons Milton T. Alford, Cecil H. Alford, Kie'mon T. Sally; daughters Candrice D. Alford, Necole D. Randle, Brittany Strong, Lacie S. Coleman, Tracie S. Coleman, Tasha Garrett and Mikayla Mitchell; 34 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

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

### Samuel Lee Whitmore, III

Samuel Lee Whitmore, III was born on Monday, December 17, 1973 in Wichita, Kansas from the union of **Samuel Lee Whitmore, Jr.** and Lisa Alford. Samuel grew up attending Haysville public schools. Later, he moved and earned his diploma from Wichita South High School. Samuel went on to earn a certificate in Blue Printing from the Denver Technical Institute of Denver.



Samuel had a big heart for his family, and he loved his children deeply.

On April 15, 2007, Samuel gave his life to Christ. He was a 15th degree mason of the Prince Hall Rocky Mountain Lodge #1, where Sam did various community services. Samuel was a hard-working man and a warehouse supervisor for United Van Lines.

A service to celebrate Samuel Lee Whitmore, III was held on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 11am at New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Wichita, KS.

The obituary and video tribute for Samuel Lee Whitmore can be found on the Biglow Funeral Directors of Wichita website.

Sam was preceded in death by his mother, Lisa Alford; grandparents, Louis and Laverne Alford, Sr.; aunt, Lydia "Angie" Alford; and uncle, Larry Yates. He leaves to cherish his memories his children, daughter Serina Se-An

Whitmore of Wichita; daughter Samaree'Lee Whitmore, son Samuel Lee Whitmore IV, and daughter, Pamela Sheriece Whitmore, all of Nevada; siblings, Selecia Hills (Eric), Benjamin Alford Stiff, Shanna Alford and Zech Silverson; uncles, Louis Alford and Donnell Alford; aunts, Joyce Getchum, Lurra Mae Callahan, Nancy Alford and Frenchie Alford; and a host of relatives and friends.

Sam is the son of Lisa Alford; Grandson of Laverne & Louis Alford, Sr.; G/Grandson of James Willie Alford and G/G/Grandson of Lafayette Alford.

### Lisa Coleen Alford

Alford Family, it is with great sadness that we share news of the passing of **Lisa Coleen Alford**. Lisa was called to her



heavenly home on January 4, 2019 after a courageous battle with cancer.

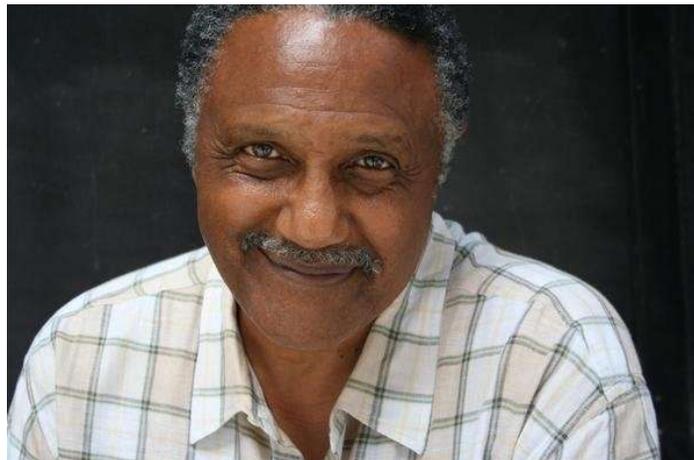
Lisa was born on March 9, 1957 in Wichita, KS. She was educated in Wichita schools and worked as Licensed Professional Nurse. Her joy was spending time with her five children and grandchildren.

Lisa was preceded in death by her parents; Louis and Laverne Alford, Sr.; and siser Hydia "Angie" Alford. She leaves to cherish her memories her children, Samuel Whitmore, Se'Lecia Hills (Eric), Benjamin Alford Stiff, Shanna Alford-Stiff, Zechariah Silverson & adopted daughter Evony Nelson; brothers, Louis Alford, Donnell Alford and Larry Yates; sisters, Joyce Getchum, Lurra Mae Callahan, Nancy Alford and Frenchie Alford; seven grandchildren; and a host of relatives and friends.

A going home celebration was held on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 1:00pm at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Wichita, KS.

Lisa is the daughter of the late Laverne & Louis Alford, Sr.; Granddaughter of the late James Willie Alford and G/Granddaughter of Lafayette Alford.

### Charles Weldon, Sr.



It is with great sadness that we share news of the passing of a family patriarch, **Charles Weldon, Sr.**

His smile lit up the room and brightened up all of our lives. It was so contagious. We hear his song. His heart so strong with all the love he gave to his children, his grandchildren and his dear friends. He had a commitment to the Arts and he was cherished and adored by many for his hard work as an actor in the theater and movies. Well done is the only way to describe his life.

He was born on June 1, 1940 in Wetumka, Oklahoma to Beatrice and Roosevelt Weldon. The Weldon family relocated to Bakersfield, California in 1944. He attended Bakersfield schools while working in nearby cotton fields until the age of seventeen, when he joined the local doo-wop group, The Paradons. After the success of their 1960 hit single, "Diamonds and Pearls," The Paradons dissolved, and Weldon went on to perform with the soul group, Blues For Sale, before discovering his love of acting. His sister Ann introduced him to the theater group Dialogue Black/White and playwright Oscar Brown, Jr. After appearing in the musical Hair at the Geary Theater in San Francisco, California, Weldon accepted Brown's invitation to perform in Buck White, appearing alongside Muhammad Ali in his only Broadway appearance. In 1970, Weldon joined the Negro Ensemble Company and performed in Joseph Walker's Ododo. In 1973, he starred



in Paul Carter Harrison's *The Great MacDaddy* and played Skeeter in Joseph Walker's *The River Niger*. Weldon reprised the role in the 1976 film adaptation with stars James Earl Jones and Cicely Tyson. He also appeared in several other films including *Who's Minding the Mint?* (1967), *Serpico* (1975), *Stir Crazy* (1980), *Fast Walking* (1982), Spike Lee's *Malcolm X* (1992), and *The Wishing Tree* (1999). He appeared in several television mini-series, including *A Woman Called Moses* (1978) and *Roots: The Next Generation* (1979). His television credits also include *Sanford and Son*, *Hill Street Blues*, *Kojak*, *St. Elsewhere*, *L.A. Law*, and *Law & Order*.

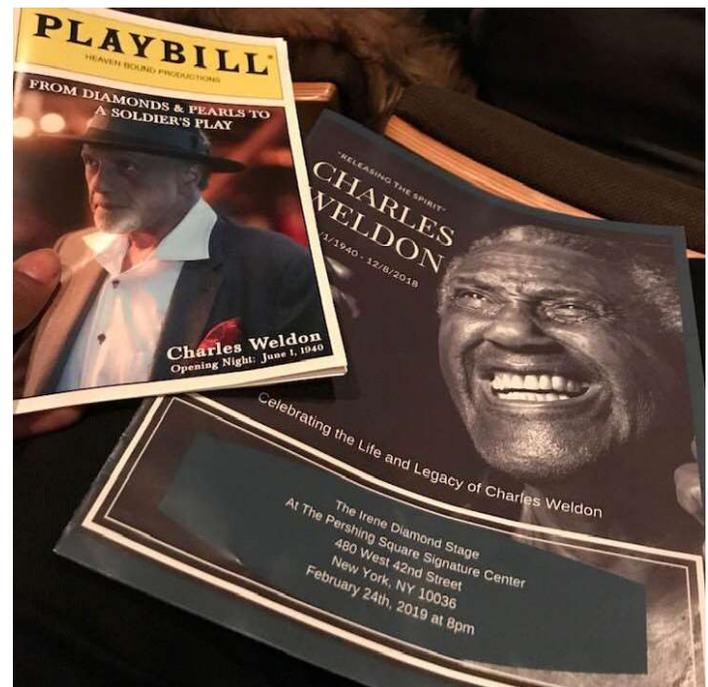


Throughout his film career, Weldon continued to perform with the Negro Ensemble Company, acting in Charles Fuller's *A Soldier's Play* in 1981. In 2004, Weldon was named artistic director of the Negro Ensemble Company. Additionally, Weldon directed Leslie Lee's *Blues in a Broken Tongue*, Jimmy Barden's *Offspring*, Samm Art-Williams' *The Waiting Room*, and Layon Gray's *WEBEIME*. Weldon also produced the Negro Ensemble Company's *Sundown Names* and *Night-Gone Things*. Co-founder of the Negro Ensemble Company, Inc.'s Alumni Organization, Weldon received the Audelco Award for best supporting actor, the Remy award for best leading actor, and the 2006 Henry Award for the Best Supporting Actor in August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*.

Charles passed away on December 7, 2018 after a short illness. A celebration of the life and legacy of Charles Weldon, Sr. was held on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 11:00a.m. at the Nate Holden Performing Arts Theatre in Los Angeles, CA. A star studded memorial tribute was also held on February 24, 2019 at The Pershing Square

Signature Center in New York, NY. Beautiful videos and tributes from his memorial services can be found on **Charles Weldon's Facebook page**.

He will be deeply missed by his children Charles Weldon Jr (Lisa Mapps-Weldon), Barbara Ray Pettie (Jake) and Terrie Moore; sisters Anna Weldon, Maxine Weldon and May Frances Weldon; grandson Warren (Jessi); granddaughter's Lauren (Matt), Tiffany, Kelly, Taylor (Mike), Loren, Jacquell, Jae, Maureen, Sentella, Daelynn; great-grandson's Irhee, Elijah and Noah; great-granddaughter Shayla; nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of cherished friends and other family.



Charles is the son of Beatrice & Roosevelt Weldon; Grandson of Effie Alford Jennings; and Great Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Please check your local cable listings or OnDemand for the short film ***Paris Blues in Harlem***, starring our beloved Charles Weldon. We celebrate him as a beacon of light and champion of the Alford legacy. This is one of his final films and a great display of true talent.

## Dorothy Gissandaner

Together we mourn the loss of another family jewel. On Sunday, November 4, 2018, **Dorothy Gissandaner** was called to her heavenly home. She was 89 years old.



Dorothy was born in Oklahoma City, OK on May 1, 1929 to Katie Alford and James A. Bailey. She was the only child from this union. Dorothy's mother passed away when she was very young.

Dorothy married Theodore Gissandaner of

Oklahoma City. She had no children of her own. Dorothy was a very loving person. To know her was to love her. While she did not drink any alcohol, she loved making her grape wine and sipping on it after meals. Dorothy loved sewing, working in her yard, planting beautiful flowers and trees. Dorothy loved her western movies and listening to her blues music that she later transferred to cassette tapes. Dorothy was always recording music, movies and soap operas in her spare times.

She was preceded in death by her mother Katie, father James, and husband Theodore. She leaves to mourn her home going her beloved sister Margaret, her brother James Jr., her cousins Cherry, Zenobia, Speedy, Adam, Scoby and a host of other nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Dorothy's life celebration was held on November 12, 2018 at the Earl M. Temple Memorial Chapel in Oklahoma City, OK. Her final resting place is the Clearview Cemetery, Clearview, OK.

Dorothy is the daughter of the late Katie Alford; and Granddaughter of Lafayette Alford.

## Belated "Golden" Birthday Wishes

William Tibbs – 84 years young on Feb. 25, 2019  
 Robert Alford – 85 years young on Feb. 26, 2019  
 Burney Jennings – 86 years young on Oct. 6, 2018  
 James Allan Simpson – 88 years young on Sept. 24, 2018  
 Wesslyne Alford Simpson – 88 years young on Nov. 1, 2018  
 Violet Alford Patterson – 92 years young on Jan. 23, 20019  
 Louise Alford – 95 years young on Nov. 30, 2018

## 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](mailto:note2erika@gmail.com)

## Questions?

Email: [thealfordreunion@gmail.com](mailto:thealfordreunion@gmail.com)

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

## Stay up to date with Alford Family News

Via Web: [www.alfordfamilyreunion.com](http://www.alfordfamilyreunion.com)

Via Facebook: **Alford Family Reunion 2018**

## 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