



Alford Family News

June 2020 Issue



Postponement of the 2020 Family Reunion

Greetings Alford! On behalf of the Alford Family Council, we hope that you are all staying safe, healthy, and happy during these challenging times. In light of the recent health crisis known as the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Council has reached the difficult decision to postpone our much-anticipated Alford Family Reunion. The reunion, which was originally scheduled for this July 9-11, 2020, is now in the process of being rescheduled. We understand that this change in plans will be met with some degree of sadness and disappointment by the family. We did not come to this decision lightly or hastily. We are acting out of an abundance of caution for our family's health and well-being.

Our family reunions have always been filled with lots of laughter, hugs, and kisses for our kin from near and far. Unfortunately, it is precisely these elements of close hugs and kisses that lead to the rampant spread of this potentially fatal virus. Now that the statistics are finally coming to reveal that communities of color make up a

disproportionately high number of COVID-19 deaths, our family council feels that the risk is just too great at this time. It is best to exercise wisdom and prudence now, rather than be faced with the possibility of loss and regret later.

We are currently formulating a process by which any payments that you may have already sent in, will be refunded back to you as soon as possible. Further details about this refund process are forthcoming. In the meantime, we want you all to keep practicing your "6-foot social distancing," wear a face mask, nitrile latex gloves, and goggles when out with the general public; keep washing/disinfecting your hands frequently; avoid touching your face, mouth/nose/eyes; stay at home when possible; and last, but not least, check in with each other by phone, text, social media, (and yes, even letters or postcards too).

We Alford are a strong stock. We have survived Slavery, The Native American Trail of Tears, Jim Crow, The Great Depression, Influenza and Tuberculosis epidemics – and we will survive this! Not only will we survive, we will thrive! So, let's move forward with responsibility and mindfulness. Keep all of our family members in your thoughts and prayers. Let's plan for our joyful reunification in 2021 after all the weight of this pandemic has passed. Until then, take care of yourselves and each other.

In Humble Service,

Your Alford Family Council

Please help us by making sure we have your current mailing, email address and phone number. Send contact info:

1. Via email: thealfordreunion@gmail.com
2. Via text: **281-773-6756**
3. For updates: www.alfordfamilyreunion.com

The 2020 Graduate Edition



We present the Alford Class of 2020. Please take the time to read about each of our Class of 2020 graduates. They have all stayed the course and made great achievements despite the tremendous challenges that are taking place in the world. Class of 2020, we are extremely proud of you all and celebrate your success.

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

Brandon Weldon

Please join us in congratulating **Brandon Weldon, Sr.** who graduated from West Texas A&M University on May 8, 2020. Brandon obtain a Master of Business Administration. He is a tenured corporate real estate manager at AT&T and plans to further his career by launching a logistics company.



Brandon Weldon, Sr. is the son Willie Ray Weldon, Jr. & Janice Weldon; Grandson of the late Willie Ray Weldon, Sr.; G\G\Grandson of Beatrice "Bea" Weldon; G\G\Grandson of Effie Alford Jennings; and G\G\G\Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Cameron Wayne Alford

We are extremely proud of **Cameron Wayne Alford** who



graduated from Wichita Heights High School on May 12, 2020. Despite the Covid -19 pandemic, he still managed to graduate with a 3.1 GPA. Cameron will be attending Butler Community College this fall where he will major in Business Entrepreneurship. Way to go Cameron!

Cameron is the son of the late Wayne K. & Casondra J Alford; Grandson of Pete J. & Vera Alford; and G/Grandson of Lafayette "Fate" Alford.

Tyris Hopso

Three cheers for **Tyris Hopso** who graduated on May 14, 2020 from Maize High School in Wichita, KS. Official commencement exercises will take place on July 24, 2020



@ Harman Arena. Tyris will be attending Butler County Community College this fall where he will pursue a degree in business.

Tyris is the son of Shanna Alford-Watson;

Grandson of Lisa Alford; G/Grandson of Laverne & Louis Alford, Sr.; G/G/Grandson of James Willie Alford; and G/G/G/Grandson of Lafayette "Fate" Alford.

Dominique Marshall

She is the definition of super woman! Congratulations to **Dominique Marshall** who completed the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program at Arizona State University on May 14, 2020. She did this while working fulltime at Banner University Medical Stroke Unit and preparing for a new addition to the family this summer.



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

Lynden Alford



Way to go **Lynden Alford** who graduated from Alford Homeschool Academy on May 15, 2020. This superstar finished her last two years of high school while

simultaneously attending Rose State College. She will be attending Baylor University in Waco, TX this fall with aspirations of becoming a Certified Nurse Midwife.

Lynden is the daughter of Kathy & Terrence "Terry Monday" Alford; Granddaughter James W. "J.W." Alford; G/Granddaughter of Juanita Howard & George Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of James Willie Alford, Sr.; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette "Fate" Alford.

Dominique Brown

Alford family please join us in congratulating **Dominique Brown** who graduated from Daniel Webster High School on May 15, 2020. Our honor student will be majoring in Criminal Justice this fall at Langston University.



Dominique is the son of Alisha Brown & Lazaro Barrios; Grandson of Laura Alford-Brown & Mikel Brown; G/Grandson of Emma & John Alford Sr.; G/G/Grandson of Ida & Emmett Alford; and G/G/G/Grandson of Lafayette "Fate" Alford.

Inayaah Amari Winston

She shines bright like a diamond! We celebrate **Inayaah Amari Winston** who graduated from Putnam City North High School in Oklahoma City, OK on May 16, 2020. This amazing young lady graduated with a gold robe meaning she maintained a 4.0 cumulative average throughout her high school career and top 10 percent of her class. Additionally, Inayaah served as the Student Council Secretary and Captain of the North Dance Company. She

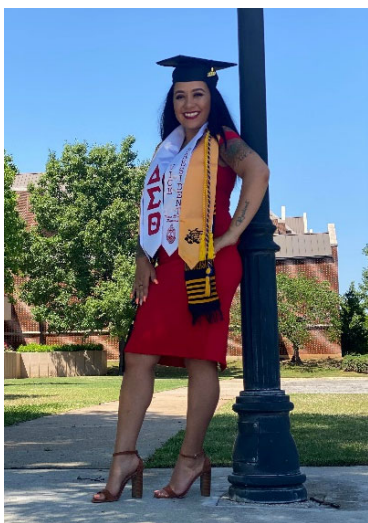
plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma in the fall.



Inayaah is the daughter of Dr. Chris D Harris & Amreen Alisha Harris; Granddaughter of Dr. Emily Patterson Harris; G/Granddaughter of Violet & Lee Virgil Patterson, Sr.; G/G/Granddaughter of Emily & Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/Granddaughter

of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Taren Patterson



Hats off to **Taren Patterson** who obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work with a minor in Psychology and Communication Sciences and Disorders from Wichita State University on May 16, 2020. Taren graduated magna cum laude; member of Phi Alpha Honor Society; and Vice President of the ZB Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She plans

to attend grad school to obtain a Master of Social Work from Wichita State this fall.

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 "Fate" Alford.

India Osborn

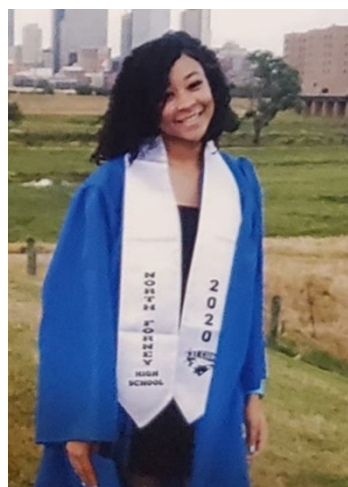
Please join us in congratulating **India Osborn** who graduated from Shawnee High School on May 18, 2020.

India is still undecided on her final college selection. We are anxiously waiting for her announcement.



India is the daughter of Bruce Osborn; Granddaughter of Brent L. Alford; G/Granddaughter of Edward & LeeAnn Alford, Sr.; G/G/Granddaughter of George & Bernice Alford; G/G/G/Granddaughter of Annie Cyrus-Gordon & Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Jordan Hammons



We are extremely proud of **Jordan Hammons** who graduated from North Forney High School on May 20, 2020 (Live Ceremony was held on June 1, 2020). Jordan graduated with a 3.4 GPA. She will be attending Rainy River Community College in International Falls, Minnesota this fall where she will major in Criminal Justice. Additionally,

Jordan was named 2020 MVP for North Forney High School's ladies basketball team. Her basketball skills and academic achievement earned her a full scholarship to Rainy River.

Jordan is the daughter of Rev. Hersey Hammons III & Nicole Hammons; Granddaughter of Rev. Hersey & Kathryn (Emery) Hammons, Jr.; G/Granddaughter of Rev. 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.

Major Leonard Alford, Jr.

Cheers to **Major Leonard Alford, Jr.** who graduated from Crafton Hills Community College on May 21, 2020 with an Associates of Arts in Psychology. Our honor student will continue his studies this fall at Sacramento State University majoring in Business Management.



Major Leonard Alford, II is the son of Major Alford, Sr.; Grandson of Major D. Alford, Jr.; G/Grandson of Major "Datey Alford, Sr. and G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Brittany Nicole Alfred

Three cheers for **Brittany Nicole Alfred** who graduated from Purdue University Global on May 22, 2020. Brittany has earned a Bachelor of Science in Legal Support and Services. We are extremely proud of you!



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

Regina Bauldwin

Congratulations to **Regina Pearl LeeMona Bauldwin** who graduated from Central High school in Omaha Nebraska on May 28, 2020. She will be attending University of Nebraska Omaha majoring in Business Accounting this fall.



*Regina Pearl LeeMona Bauldwin
Class of 2020*

Regina is the daughter of Lashonda Bauldwin; Granddaughter of Eugina Alford Bauldwin; G/Granddaughter of Scoby Rosevelt Alford & Pearl Alford; and G/G/Granddaughter of Lafayette "Fate" & Jenny Alford.

Jordan Louise Alfred



We are tremendously proud of **Jordan Louise Alfred**. She has completed the requirements for dual degrees in Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Spanish from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Commencement exercises took place on May 29, 2020.

Additionally, our scholar serves as the MIT Chapter President of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and

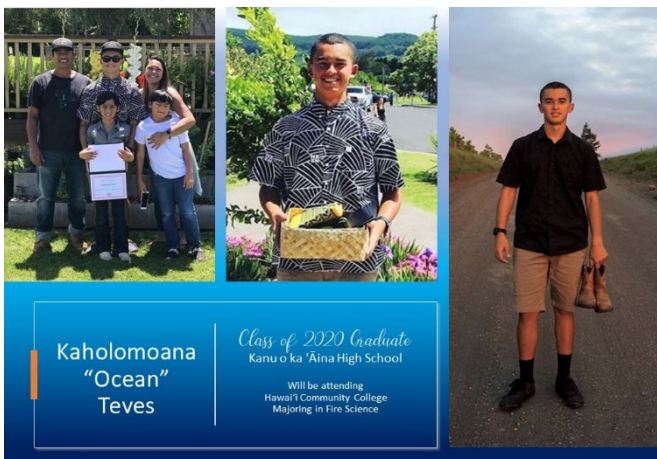
Chemical Engineers (NOBCChe). She has accepted a position with Shell Oil Company, New Orleans with a summer 2020 start date.



Jordan is the daughter of Romeo & Brenda Alford, Jr.; Granddaughter of Romeo & Louise Alford, Sr.; G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow & Emily Alford; G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Kaholomoana "Ocean" Tachera

Shouting CONGRATULATIONS to Kaholomoana "Ocean" Teves who graduated from Kanu o ka 'Āina High School on Friday, May 29, 2020. He will be attending Hawai'i Community College this fall where he will major in Fire Science.



Ocean is the son of Eric Tachera & the late Jasmin Teves; Bonus son of Naomi Tachera; Grandson of Janice & Gary Tachera; G/Grandson of Willie "Cracker" Alford; and G/G/Grandson of Lafayette "Fate" Alford.

Josiah Barnes

Congratulations to Josiah Barnes who completed studies at Northeast Magnet High School. Formal commencement exercises will take place on July 25, 2020. He will be attending Butler Community College this fall.



Josiah is the youngest son of Edwanna & Robert Barnes II; Grandson of Eloise Alford; G/Grandson of Vernon "Gutchie" & Ida Alford; G/G/Grandson of Lafayette "Fate" Alford.

Sydney Michelle Scott



We celebrate the academic accomplishments of Sydney Michelle Scott, who obtained an M.S. in Nanotechnology with a concentration in Nanomedicine from the University of Central Florida on December 14, 2019. Sydney is also an alum of Tuskegee University and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Next on her to do list is medical school. We will be watching and cheering on our future Dr. Scott as she continues to soar.

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

Alford; and G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Lauren Ashley Beck

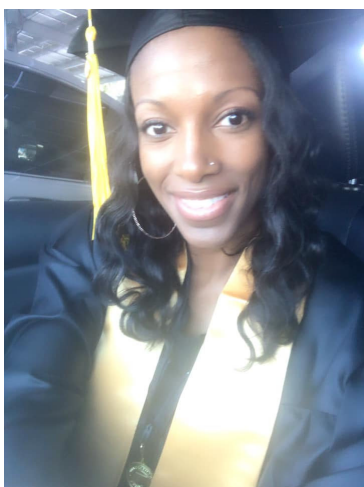


Congratulations to **Lauren Ashley Beck** who graduated from University of Phoenix on September 14, 2019. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. This only adds to her long list of accomplishments. Lauren is an accomplished freelance journalist, television host and red-carpet commentator at Hollywood events. She was

a featured contestant on Survivor: Island of the Idols that will premiered September 2019!

Lauren is the beautiful daughter of Lisa Mapps-Weldon & Charles Weldon Jr.; Granddaughter of Charles Weldon; G/Granddaughter of Bea Jennings Weldon; G/G/Granddaughter of Effie M. Alford Jennings; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Shaunte "Tae" Denise Cheatham



She is a Rockstar! Congratulations to **Shaunte "Tae" Denise Cheatham** who obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Chamberlain University on August 31, 2019.

Tae is the daughter of Sheila Saddler; Granddaughter of Doll Bly; G/Granddaughter of Asalee & Charlie Alford;

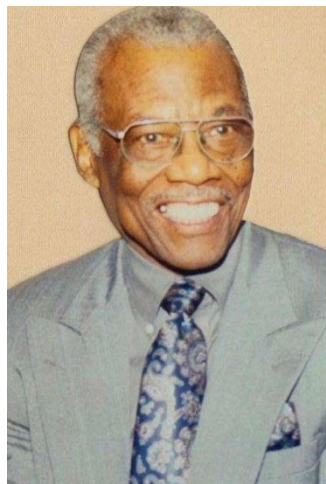
G/G/Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Please join us in saying "Congratulations Alford Class of 2020! You did it!!!"

Watch Us Soar!

OAAE Honors Lee Virgil Patterson Sr. 'Heart Of A Teacher'

By F Jones -September 13, 2019



The Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc., (OAAE) announces the posthumous induction of career Tulsa educator and coach **Mr. Lee Virgil Patterson, Sr.** as a member of their 2019 class of the OAAE Hall of Fame Inductees. The induction ceremony was held on Friday, September 27, 2019 at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

Lee Virgil Patterson, Sr., born to Charley and Mary Patterson on November 15, 1926, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, experienced unfortunate circumstances in a family of thirteen children. Despite the obstacles, the children grew up in the State Home of Negro Deaf, Blind and Orphans, known simply as the DB&O in Taft, Oklahoma. Patterson and his brother Alfred believed in an education, therefore; they moved to Tulsa to attend school. They supported themselves as tailors. He graduated high school and went to college on a football scholarship at Shaw University in North Carolina. He missed being at home, so he transferred to Langston University. He suffered an injury which ended his athletic career at Langston University. However, he rebounded with a job as a student coach, and graduated with a B.S. degree in Industrial Arts.

When duty called in 1951, he honored his country by serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Mr. Patterson received the Korean Service Medal, two Bronze Stars and the United Nation's Service Medal.

In 1954, Mr. Patterson began his career in education as a teacher at the Oklahoma State Training School for Boys in Boley, Oklahoma where he taught tailoring, math, woodshop and coached boys' basketball. He later moved to Tulsa where he was hired to teach at Carver Junior High, then McLain High, followed by Hale High in the Tulsa Public Schools where he taught for more than twenty years. His assignments included arts and crafts, drafting and printing.

Mr. Patterson was the consummate educator. He exemplified the "Heart of a Teacher" as described by Paula J. Fox in her book by the same name. "The child arrives like a mystery box with puzzle pieces inside, some of the pieces are broken or missing and others just seem to hide. The heart of a teacher can sort out the puzzle and help the child to see the potential for greatness from within." He would put the pieces together for many young students who entered his woodwork class. His goal was not just to impart knowledge, but also to create a work of art. He understood that the process would be painfully slow at times, but he knew the students would be successful.

In addition, he was from the old school where women were respected; he opened doors and pulled out chairs. He honored family, he wore suits or well-tailored and pressed work clothes to class, and he welcomed new teachers and taught them the ropes. He never shied away from an opportunity to share his craft.

Mr. Patterson's awards and accolades included: Destination Discovery Inc.'s Volunteer Service Award and the 25th Anniversary Achievement Award; the Outstanding Service Award-Industrial Arts Award, the Tulsa Public Schools Department of Vocational Education and Industrial Arts Award; the Certificate of Recognition – Vocational Industrial Arts Clubs of America; Langston University Alumni Association Outstanding Service Award, the Mid-Western Region Award, and he was a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

A loving husband, Lee Virgil and his wife Violet, (2015 OAAEHOF recipient) celebrated sixty wonderful years of marriage shortly before his death. His legacy of education is seen in the numerous accomplishments of his children and grandchildren. He was a member of the Morning Star Baptist Church of Tulsa for more than seventy 70 years where he faithfully served as Trustee, Deacon, Sunday

School and Vacation Bible School teacher and the Brotherhood Ministry.

Lee Virgil Patterson Sr. prided himself on being a gentleman and a role model for all students, but especially for young African American men. And, although he was known as being a disciplinarian, he also had a wicked sense of humor. Above all, he possessed "The Heart of a Teacher."

Lee Virgil Patterson, Sr. is the husband of Violet Alford Patterson, who is the daughter of Emily & Wesley Dow Alford; and granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

<http://theoklahomaeagle.net/2019/09/13/oaae-honors-lee-virgil-patterson-sr-heart-of-a-teacher/>

Violet Alford Patterson's 93rd Birthday

On January 23rd, 2020 we celebrated the 93rd birthday of our beloved matriarch, **Violet Alford Patterson**.



Known to many as "Aunt Vi", she has tirelessly served as a founder and curator of the Alford family reunion since its inception 45 years ago. She hosted numerous

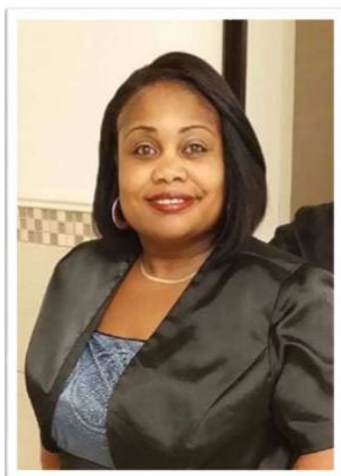
reunions and helped to establish many of the reunion processes and family traditions that we utilize today. In 2018, she was the recipient of the first Alford family legacy award presented at the family reunion in Oklahoma City.

Her professional and personal accomplishments are countless. Serving as a lifelong educator and mentor, her commitment to community have benefited students academically and spiritually for decades. A graduate of Langston University, she is a life member of Langston University National Alumni Association, Inc.; life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; and 60+ year member of Morning Star Baptist Church.

We sing "Happy 93rd Birthday" along with the #TeamVioletCrew which includes her daughters Dr. Emily Harris and Gwynell Wilson (Robert); sons Dr. Lee Patterson, II (Eric) and James Adam Patterson; grandsons Erick Harris, Esq., Dr. Chris D Harris (Amreen Alisha Harris), Geoff Wilson and DeShawn Patterson-Edwards; granddaughter Kendall Wilson; G/Granddaughter Inayaah Harris; and the rest of the Alford clan far and wide.

Violet Alford Patterson is the daughter of Emily & Wesley Dow Alford; and Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Benita Bell Answers the Call to Ministry



After much prayer and supplication our own **Benita Bell** has announced her call to ministry. On May 17, 2020 via Facebook live with an audience, Prophetess Benita stated that she is no longer running from her spiritual calling and will serve as third-generation minister in the Bell family. During the live testimony she stated, "God has instructed

me many times to open my mouth and to teach his word." The foundational scripture used was Psalms 51:15 which states, "Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise."

Due to Covid-19, she will begin her studies in September at Sisters in Divine Discipleship. She will serve under Pastor John K. Jenkins, at First Baptist Church of Glenarden in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The formal ordination service will be announced at a later date.

Benita Bell is the daughter of Rev. Bennie Bell, Jr.; G/Granddaughter of Rev. Bennie Bell, Sr.; G/G/Granddaughter of Willie C. Bell; G/G/G/Granddaughter of Lucinda Alford-Bell & Ivory Bell; and G/G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Walter Javon Wagner Enlists



Congratulations to **Javon "JJ" Wagner** who was sworn into the United States Army on September 6, 2019. He has completed BCT & AIT and is currently stationed at Ft. Sill. Thank you JJ for your dedication and commitment to serving our great nation.

Javon is the 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.

Ariona Faye Wagner Enlists

Congratulations to **Ariona Faye Wagner** who enlisted into the United States Airforce on March 13, 2020. She will be leaving for basic training as soon as the Pharmacy Tech MOS is available. Thank you Ariona for your commitment to serving our country.



Ariona is the 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 Alford; and G/G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Lauren Ashley Beck's Survivor Contestant Recap



Beginning the game on the Vokai tribe, 28 year old **Lauren Ashley Beck** formed a quick friendship with Tommy Sheehan after they initially bonded over their loved ones. This connection among others allowed Lauren to seemingly form a tight alliance consisting of herself, Tommy, Dan Spilo, Janet Carbin, and Kellee Kim. Under Lauren's direction, the group

blindsided Molly Byman at Vokai's first Tribal Council to weaken her influence on the tribe.

Lauren remained on Vokai after the Tribe Switch on Day 12, alongside allies Dan, Tommy, and Jason Linden, though they found themselves in a precarious 4-4 split against members of the original Lairo tribe. When Vokai lost immunity on Day 16, the four conspired with Aaron Meredith to target Elaine Stott. At Tribal Council, however, Elaine revealed that she had a Vote Blocker advantage, which she used against Jason, ultimately allowing the original Lairo members to vote him out. Now relegated to the minority, Lauren and Tommy attempted to throw Dan under the bus to protect themselves, but the original Lairo contingent became suspicious of them and considered voting out Tommy if they lost again.

When the tribes merged into the Lumuwaku tribe on Day 20, Lauren and Tommy attempted to rekindle their alliance with Janet and Kellee. However, the two sensed that Kellee would not be loyal to their alliance after she entertained the possibility of voting out Dan, resulting in her eventual elimination. When a Double Elimination twist temporarily split up the Lumuwaku tribe on Day 27, Janet appeared to be the next to go due to her previous attempt to take out Dan. However, Lauren and the other former Vokai decided that Aaron was a bigger threat, blindsiding him and reestablishing their original Vokai alliance.

The next day, Lauren volunteered to go to the Island of the Idols, where she accepted the mentors' challenge, which required her to correctly pick who would win the next individual Immunity Challenge in exchange for a Hidden Immunity Idol that would be valid for the following two Tribal Councils. With the players having the option to either eat or compete, Lauren focused all of her energy on convincing everyone except Elizabeth Beisel and Noura Salman, the two players she picked to win immunity, to sit out of the challenge. Noura went on to win the challenge, granting Lauren a Hidden Immunity Idol. However, Karishma Patel's idol play at Tribal Council that night prompted Lauren to play her own idol to be safe. This proved to be for naught, as she did not receive any votes against her and Elizabeth was voted out instead.

On Day 30, Janet and Tommy won the Loved Ones Challenge and decided to take Lauren and Dan with them on the reward. This caused Noura to realize that she was on the outs of their alliance, and she conspired to target Lauren with Elaine, Karishma, and Dean Kowalski because of her strong social game. However, Lauren won immunity, foiling their plan, with Karishma being voted out that night, followed by Elaine. At the final five, Janet attempted to eliminate Lauren with her own idol; however, Lauren and Tommy got Dean to use his Idol Nullifier to cancel Janet's idol, sending her to the jury.

After Noura won the Final Immunity Challenge on Day 38, Lauren was unhappy to hear that even though Noura considered Lauren her "number one ally", she would be facing Dean in the fire-making challenge. Lauren desperately tried to practice making fire, only for Noura to continuously distract her by attempting to explain her decision. At Tribal Council, Lauren was able to start a fire, but ultimately lost to Dean, becoming the tenth and final member of the jury.

At the Final Tribal Council, Lauren asked Tommy who he was most loyal to. Her loyalty to Tommy remained as she voted for him to win the title of Sole Survivor, which he ultimately did in a 8-2-0 vote.

Fun facts: Lauren lasted the longest without receiving elimination votes against her in Island of the Idols. Lauren lost 18 lbs. during her time on Island of the Idols. She is back in Glendale and staying busy with her podcast, modeling and acting.

Republished courtesy of:

https://survivor.fandom.com/wiki/Lauren_Beck#:~:text=Her%20loyalty%20to%20Tommy%20remained,8%2D2%2D0%20vote

Meet Miika (Mz.Inkbomb) Coffey out of Inglewood Ca

By @voyagelamag - January 15

Today we'd like to introduce you to **Miika Coffey** aka Mz.Inkbomb.

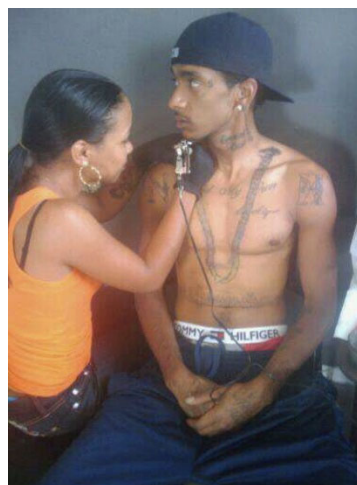


Mz.Inkbomb, let's start with your story. We'd love to hear how you got started and how the journey has been so far. Everyone knows me as Mz.Inkbomb I am a tattoo artist out of

Inglewood, CA. Late 2008 after I had my son is when I picked up a tattoo gun. I decided to quit my two part-time jobs and braiding hair on the side to tattoo full time, not knowing where it would take me or what I was getting myself into. 2009 is when I got discovered in a small shopping center on Slauson and Crenshaw Called Slauson Tee's where I got introduced to Rapper Nipsey Hussle and his Brother Blac Sam.

As confident as I was they quickly shot me down as one of their friends said, "Yeah right you don't do tattoos". That same day I did a tattoo right there in the shop proving that I was serious about my craft, tattooing there almost every day. Making a buzz for myself around the neighborhood word spread fast. Later that year in that same parking lot is where Nipsey pulled up on me and told me to pull up to the studio and the rest is pretty much history.

Has it been a smooth road? It has most definitely been some obstacles on the way. From trying to be accepted in a male dominated industry, being a single mother, opening my own studio and walking away from it months after opening it due to learning experiences. There are still obstacles I struggle with day-to-day, but I believe in God and faith. My son he watches everything I do so making sure I set a good example is key for me. I make sure he doesn't want for anything. He's my number one priority and he's my biggest fan.



We'd love to hear more about your art. Ink Bomb isn't just a name it's a lifestyle, a clothing brand, A Hustle, A mom, A friend, and someone who never gives up. I represent the community and I have a style people can relate too, my style is based largely off urban tattoo culture tattooing mostly in black and grey and some color. I'm

mostly known for my linework and bringing people's ideas to life. What sets me apart from others is my personality and motivation to keep going and the passion that I have for art.

Let's touch on your thoughts about our city – what do you like the most and least? What I like best about our city is the culture. There nothing better to me than southern Cal, we have beaches, good weather, music and Taco Tuesday. What I like least about our city is the cost of living and homelessness.

Contact Info:

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Email: mz.inkbomb@gmail.com

Instagram: [@mzinkbomb](https://www.instagram.com/mzinkbomb)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/mzinkbomb](https://www.facebook.com/mzinkbomb)

Twitter: [Twitter.com/Mzinkbomb](https://twitter.com/Mzinkbomb)

<http://voyagela.com/interview/meet-miika-mz-inkbomb-coffey-inglewood-ca/>

Army veteran Emmett Roberts provides entrepreneurial training for Maryland business owners

By Amanda Winters - November 06, 2019

After retiring in 2014, **Major Emmett Roberts** began networking throughout the U.S. to gain insight into federal contracting to help develop his business. But he quickly noticed one key similarity in most of his discussions—the lack of resources available for veteran-owned businesses.



“I’ve talked to individuals around the country, I’ve been to every conference you

can name, and I hear what people are saying—nobody is investing the time to show veterans how to win,” said the U.S. Army veteran.

With this realization, Roberts decided to sacrifice the success of his business to support a larger group of veterans. Knowing that his skills and services could be beneficial in his home state of Maryland, he collaborated with fellow local veterans and launched the Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce (MDVCC) in May 2018.

“One thing I know about veterans is that they will come together to support the success of other veterans and the success of MDVCC will make the state of Maryland even better,” said Roberts. “I’m confident that this organization is necessary to support the success of veteran business owners.”

MDVCC provides education for business owners and helps give back to the local economy by supporting entrepreneurial activity throughout the state. The chamber offers a 24-month training program comprised of several different steps to ensure entrepreneurs learn the fundamental principles of owning and operating a business in Maryland. The organization is part of the United States Veterans Chamber of Commerce, which

includes 27 independent state chapters across the country.

“Our incubation program helps those who have business ideas. Participants join our training program and find out who they are—they build their concept, go through business registration, learn about branding, and more,” said Roberts. “Every veteran who wants to run a business can join our program and prepare themselves.”

For the past 18 months, Roberts has worked to grow MDVCC’s network in Maryland and fulfill its mission of helping veterans, veteran-owned businesses, and their families. His goal for the next five years is to see the group and its trainees collectively generate more than \$1 million in revenue for their individual companies. He would also like to collaborate with a number of Maryland’s educational institutions to help grow the veteran training program even more.

“Our goal is to make sure veterans are better equipped to run a business than ever before,” he said.

For more information, contact Major Emmett Roberts at the Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce by email (info@mdvcc.org), phone (240-582-4959), or online at www.mdvcc.org.

Pictured: MDVCC Executive Director Emmett Roberts with Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks

****Emmett Rodney Roberts is the son of Rev. Henry Roberts, II & Billie Roberts; Grandson of Thelma Alford Roberts; G/Grandson Matthew Solomon Alford.**

Annual Clearview Rodeo

2020 Rodeo Cancellation



Unfortunately, the Annual Clearview Rodeo is cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which is affecting communities across the world. **Romeo J. Alford, II**, organizer and administrator of the

Annual Clearview Rodeo had a difficult decision to make but it was in the best interest of all to keep everyone safe and to follow the protective guidelines and statewide accountability procedures. He is looking forward to seeing everyone next year 2021, the first weekend in August.

As with all events scheduled in the community centers in Clearview with large numbers and keeping within social distances guidelines. Also, all large scheduled Black-town tours have been postponed until 2021.

Going Greek

Stacey Michele Carr Pledges AKA

On Sunday, November 17, 2019, **Stacey Michele Williams-Carr** joined the Zeta Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. in Houston, Texas. Stacey and 50 new sisters were welcomed by Zeta Gamma Omega to membership.



Welcoming her into the sisterhood are many other notable Alford AKA's including: Violet Alford Patterson, Wessylne Alford Simpson, Emily Patterson Harris, Gwynell Patterson Wilson, W.

Kaye Mitchell, Lynne Simpson-Harding, Brenda Nails Alford, Deandra Bradley, Kim Smith, Valerie Hill, Ericka Alford Dooley, Latoya Moore, Amreen Harris, Nancy Moore, Sydney M. Scott and Kendall J. Wilson.

Stacey is the wife of Brylon E. Carr; who is the son of Gloria Alford-Carr; Grandson of Edward "Big Ace" & LeeAnn Alford, Sr.; G/Grandson of George & Bernice Alford; G/G/Grandson of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Toasting Our Newlyweds

Introducing Mr. & Mrs. Michael Downin

We are pleased to introduce to some and reintroduce to others, **Mr. & Mrs. Michael Downin**. The love birds announced their private elopement to a small group of family and friends in 2019. However, this is the Downin's first formal introduction to the Alford family as husband-and-wife. Brandee & Michael celebrated their first anniversary and Mrs. Downin's birthday on May 18, 2020. It looks like Houston has lost a cousin as Brandee is



enjoying her life in New Orleans!

Brandee Alyce Weldon-Downin is the daughter of Willie Ray Weldon, Jr. & Janice Weldon; Granddaughter of the late Willie Ray Weldon, Sr.; G\Granddaughter of Beatrice "Bea" Weldon; G\G\Granddaughter of Effie Alford Jennings; and G\G\G\Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Erica Robinson says "I Do" to Jalen Murphy



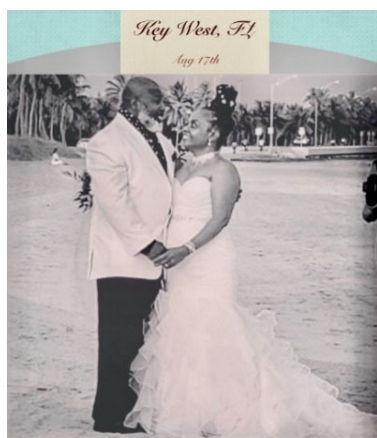
We celebrate the blessed union of **Erica Robinson** who wed Jalen Murphy on October 6, 2019 in Omaha, NE. It was a blessing to behold God's grace as He smiled on their special day, surrounded by

their family and friends. Congratulations to the lovely newlyweds!

Erica 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 "Fate" Alford.

Letha Marie Butler Weds Steven Bennett

We celebrate the blessed union of **Letha Marie Butler**



who wed Steven Bennett on August 17, 2019. The beautiful union took place during the sunset at Smathers Beach in Key West, Florida. Congratulations to the newlyweds and welcome to the family Steven.

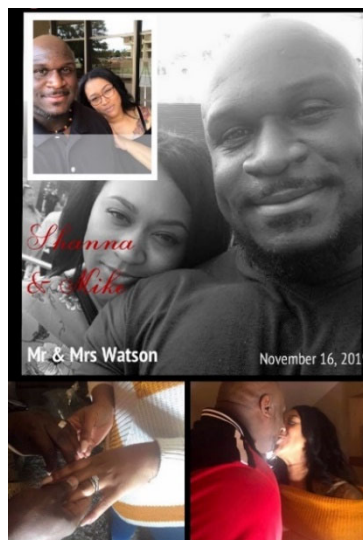


Letha Marie Butler-Bennett is the daughter of Lethan "Tuna" Anderson Butler; Granddaughter of Ruby Alford-

Anderson; and G/Granddaughter of Lafayette "Fate" Alford.

Happily Ever After

Shanna Watson is now Mrs. Michael Watson



The love bug took a bite and two hearts were joined in holy matrimony. Our own **Shanna Alford** became Mrs. Michael Watson on November 16, 2019 in Wichita, KS. Please join us in welcoming Michael "Mike" Watson into the Alford family.

Shanna Alford Watson is the daughter of Lisa Alford; Granddaughter of Laverne & Louis

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

Our Growing Tree

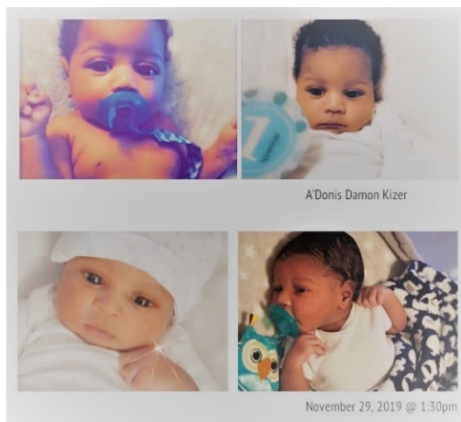
Ace Icarus Butler



He is too handsome for words! Please join us in welcoming **Ace Icarus Butler** who was born on December 19, 2019 at 5:55am. Little Ace weighed in at 7lbs 8oz and measured 19in. long. Please congratulate his daddy Adron, mommy Keyara, big brother King and proud Grandmother Theresa Alford..

Ace is the son of Adron Nathaniel Butler & Keyara D. Hall; Grandson of Theresa Alford; G/Grandson of Elouise Alford; G/G/Grandson of Vernon L. "Gutchie" Alford & Ida L. Alford; and G/G/G/Grandson of Lafayette "Fate" Alford.

A'Donis Damon Kizer



A'Donis Damon Kizer is here to steal your heart! He made a princely entrance on November 29, 2019 at 1:30pm, weighing in at 7lbs 5oz and 19in long. Congratulations

to the parents Brittany Alford & Jerome Kizer and big brother Anthony.

Baby A'Donis is the son of Brittany Alford; Grandson of Reginald Alford 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 "Fate" Alford.

Leyona Marshae Goff



Nothing is as sweet as a precious baby girl. Alford family, please congratulate Keyona & Robert Goff on the birth of beautiful **Leyona Goff**. The little princess was born on October 3, 2019 and weighed in at 6lbs 10oz and measured 19in. Leyona is the daughter of Keyona & Robert Goff; Granddaughter of David & Tammy

Jennings; G/Granddaughter of Burney Jennings; G/G/Granddaughter of John D. Jennings; G/G/G/Granddaughter of Effie Alford Jennings; and G/G/G/G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Zion Lydy

Stop the presses, there is a new Prince in the family. Please welcome **Zion Lydy** who arrived on his due date, May 20, 2020. Zion weighed in at 6 lbs 12 oz and measured 20.5 inches. Congratulations to the proud new parents Morgan & Ryan Lydy.



Zion is the son of Morgan & Ryan Lydy; Grandson of Margo Alford-Sarensfors; G/Grandson of Darryl Alford; G/G/Grandson of Robert Alford; G/G/G/Grandson of James Willie Alford & Lydia Thibodeaux Alford; G/G/G/G/Grandson of Lafayette "Fate" Alford.

Deshawn "DJ" Alford, Jr.

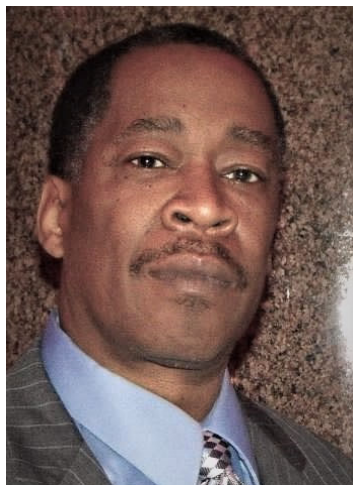
Please join us in welcoming the latest Alford arrival. **DeShawn "DJ" Alford, Jr.** arrived on May 21, 2020 at 1:15am. The little prince weighed in at 7lbs 8oz and measured 19 inches. Congratulations to the proud parents DeShawn "DJ" Alford, Sr. & Jessica Reyna.



DJ is the son of Deshawn Alford, Sr.; Grandson of Michelle Alford; G/Grandson of Donnell & Augie Alford; G/G/Grandson of Louis Milton & Ethel Patton-Alford; and G/G/G/Grandson of Lafayette "Fate" Alford.

In Memory Of. . .

Dwight Matthew Roberts



Our family mourns the loss of another loved one.

Dwight Matthew Roberts passed suddenly at his home on Thursday, May 7, 2020. He was 66 years old.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Robin Johnson Roberts; daughter, Dré Martina Roberts (Ricky Owens) son, Dwight Matthew Roberts II (Princess Davis); two

grandchildren Avery Walker Roberts and Jécin Olivia Owens; an aunt, Victoria Rockwell Baxter (Robert); four siblings, Deborah A. Dixon (Jimmy); Martha L. Powell; Raymond C. Roberts (Cynthia) and Emmett R. Roberts (Anita) and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and long-time friends.

A viewing was held on Monday, May 18, 2020 at Chinn-Baker Funeral Home, 2605 Shirlington Road, Arlington, VA. Dwight's interment was held at National Memorial Park, 7482 Lee Highway, West Falls Church, VA in a private graveside ceremony.

Cards and flowers may be sent to: 7816 Cliffside Court, Springfield, VA 22153

Dwight Matthew Roberts is the son of Rev. Henry Roberts, II & Billie Roberts; Grandson of Thelma Alford Roberts; and G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Emma Jean Sanders

With much sorrow we share news of the passing of **Emma Jean Sanders** of Detroit, Michigan. Emma went to her heavenly home on April 13, 2020. She was 72 years old.

She is survived by her husband Julius Sanders; son Rev. Timothy Ramsey, Sr. (Mona); and grandson Timothy Ramsey, Jr.



The celebration of life was held at James H. Cole Funeral Home in Detroit, MI on April 25, 2020.

Cards and condolences can be sent to: 16144 Greenfield Rd. Detroit, MI 48235.

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

James W. Harding, Sr.



We join together to offer heartfelt condolences to Dr. Lynne Simpson-Harding, James Harding, Jr, Lauren Harding, Christina Edwards, and Sydney M. Scott as they mourn the loss of **James W. Harding, Sr.** James who passed away unexpectedly during a fishing accident on April 29, 2020. He was 55 years old.

James was a beloved teacher and coach at Star Spencer High School. His career spans more than 30 years of service to youth and his community. James' free time was devoted to spending time with his family or on his boat fishing. He never met a stranger and his contagious laugh will be missed by all who knew him.

Wife, Dr. Lynne Simpson-Harding; son James Jr. (Chara); daughters Lauren, Christina and Sydney; and grandchildren Chalyse and James III.

Family and friend's visitation was held on Monday, May 11, 2020 at Temple and Son Funeral Home in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Services for James Harding were held Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at W.E. Anderson Football Stadium Parking Lot in Langston, Oklahoma.

You may make donations in the name of James Harding to Langston University.

Lynne is the daughter of Dr. Wessylne A. Simpson & James Allan Simpson; Granddaughter of Wesley Dow & Emily Alford; and G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Sandra Dee Alford

A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered. We are saddened to announce the passing of **Sandra Dee Alford** on March 7, 2020.



Sandra was born June 12, 1959 in Wichita, Kansas. Sandra was preceded in death by her father Junious Alford, Sr. She leaves to cherish her memory her Mother Willie Malone; Children Leon Derrick, Sharod Ceasar, Sheria Ceasar

(Adrian) Hunter, Ariel Ceasar & Chazni Caesar; Brothers and Sisters: Andrea, Tracy and Darron Alford; two Grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Sandra is the Granddaughter of the late Willie "Cracker" Alford & Helen Alford; and the G/Granddaughter of Lafayette "Fate" & Jennie V. Alford.

The Home Going Celebration was held on March 18th, 2020 at 11:00 AM at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Wichita, KS. Final arrangements were entrusted to Jackson Mortuary in Wichita, KS.



"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
John 16:33

Marvin Charles Black

Sunrise: August 27, 1941 - Sunset: February 25, 2020



It is with deep sorrow that we share news of the passing of **Marvin Charles Black**. Marvin was born on August 27, 1941, in Atlanta Georgia to Ethel H. Black Gieger and Charles Black. He was the only child born to this union.

Marvin was proceeded in death by his parents, stepfather Freeman Gieger; son Timothy Eric Logan and brother Melvin Black. Left to cherish his memories are his wife Merdine Alford-Black; daughters Frankie "Penny" Black and Mytia "Tay" Black-Green (Fredrick); sister Charla Black-Edwards (Kenneth); grandsons Jared T. Green and Lloyd Logan; granddaughters Loren E. Green, Peyton K. Green, Ariana Giorgianni and Anastasia Logan; two great-grandchildren; two uncles; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Graveside Services were held on March 13, 2020 at Houston National Cemetery in Houston, TX.

Merdine is the daughter of George and Bernice Alford; Granddaughter of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/Granddaughter of Matthew Solomon Alford.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4"

Frankie B. Kincade Jordan



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of **Frankie B. Kincade Jordan** who passed away on December 28, 2019, at the age of 89, leaving to mourn many family members and friends.

Frankie was born in Readland, Arkansas on February 25, 1930 to parents Mary Emma and Joseph Walter Kincade Sr. She

attended Tamalpais High School in Marin City, California. After many years of dedicated service, she retired from Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City where she worked as a Labor and Delivery Nurse Technician.

She leaves to cherish her memory, daughters: Joyce Swanegan (Waymon), JoAnn Alford (Willie), Cheryl Franklin, Andrea Lambeth-Smith, Valerie Fields and Leslie Lambeth; sons: Darrel Edsel Jordan Sr. (Marsha), and Rodney Craig Jordan (Emily)

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Janice Faye Stafford; sisters: Evelyn Wilson, Annie Louise Johnson, Susie Mae Fowler, Josephine Evans and Carnelia Ward; brothers: Charles Kincade, Robert Kincade, and Joseph Walter Kincade Jr.

A visitation was held on January 10, 2020. Celebration of life services were held at Northeast Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, OK on January 11, 2020. Final remains were interned at Cemetery: Hillcrest Memory Gardens in Spencer, OK.

Frankie is the mother of Jo Ann Alford. Jo Ann is the wife Willie O. Alford, Sr.; Son of George & Bernice Alford; Grandson of Wesley Dow Alford; and G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Curtis Wayne "Slim" Mason



We mourn the loss of **Curtis Wayne "Slim" Mason** who passed away on November 5, 2019. Curtis was born on June 26, 1951, he was 68 years old.

Memorial services were held on Saturday, November 09, 2019 at Gilcrease Hills Baptist Church in Tulsa, OK.

Curtis Mason is the son of Elretha Bell; Grandson of Willie C. Bell & Lutishie Lasky; G/Grandson of Lucinda Alford Bell & Ivory Bell; and G/G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford

James Wesley Simpson, J.D.



It is with deep sorrow that we share news of the passing of **James Wesley Simpson, J.D.** On Sunday, November 24, 2019 Jim transitioned from earth to everlasting at his home in St. Louis, Missouri.

A memorial service celebrating his life was held on Saturday, November 30, 2019 at New Hope Missionary

Baptist Church in Langston, Oklahoma.

Family members wore black and gold attire to honor the beloved Jim.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife Brenda Burns Simpson; daughter Melanie Burns; parents Dr. Wessyllyne A. & James Allan Simpson; brother Michael A. Simpson, Sr. (Monica); sister Dr. Lynne Simpson-Scott (James); aunt Violet Alford-Patterson; nephews Michael Simpson, Jr. &

Mark Simpson; niece Sydney Michelle Scott; great-nephews Jorel Simpson & Jasiah Simpson; and a host of cousins, family, fraternity brothers and friends.

James is the son of Dr. Wessylne A. & James Allan Simpson; Grandson of Wesley Dow & Emily Alford; and G/Grandson of Matthew Solomon Alford.

Wilbert E. Harris



Please join us in keeping Erick Wilbert Harris, Esq., Dr. Chris D Harris (Amreen Alisha Harris) and Lontonio Seals in prayer as they mourn the loss of their father, **Wilbert Erick Harris**. Wilbert was called to his heavenly home on Monday, October 21, 2019 in Tulsa, OK. Mr. Harris was born on August 8, 1956, he was 63 years old.

A visitation was held on Monday, October 28, 2019 at Butler-Stumpff & Dyer Funeral Home in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The celebration of life services were held Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at Morning Star Baptist Church in Tulsa, OK. Interment was held Green Acres Memorial Gardens in Tulsa, OK 74114.

Wilbert E. Harris is the father of Erick Harris, Esq. & Dr. Christopher Harris; who are the sons of Dr. Emily Patterson Harris; Grandsons of Violet Alford-Patterson & Lee Virgil Patterson, Sr.; G/Grandsons of Wesley Dow Alford & Emily Dunlap-Alford; and G/G/Grandsons of Matthew Solomon Alford.

We ask for continued prayers for our family as we grieve our losses.

Belated "Golden" Birthday Wishes

Erma Emery – 90 years young on April 26, 2020

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 donate 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