



Mrs. Mary Lee Alston

June 26, 1942 - June 28, 2015

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens; a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.” –Ecclesiastes 3:1-2.

Mrs. Mary DeVaughn Lee Alston was born in Rembert, South Carolina on June 26 to the late Mr. Woodrow Augustus Lee and the late Mrs. Sarah Vaughn-Lee. She departed this earthly life on Sunday, June 28, 2015 at Palmetto Health Heart Hospital of Columbia, South Carolina.

Mary Lee Alston attended Rafting Creek Elementary, Ebenezer High, Fashion Institute of Brooklyn, New York, New York Institute of Business, Sumter Area Technical College, Central Carolina Technical College, and Pee Dee Regional Education Center. While at Ebenezer High School, she was honored by Who’s Who Among American High School Students, and crowned Miss Personality. During her summers in high school, Mrs. Alston worked as an apprentice in Long Island, New York for Eve All Show Girls on Broadway.

On March 19, 1965, Mrs. Alston married the late Mr. Jessie V. Alston, Sr. and the couple was blessed with two children: Mr. Jessie V. Alston, Jr., and Mrs. Mariam L. Alston-Greene, and two grandsons: Mr. Brian L. Alston and Mr. Tyler J. Greene.

She began her administration career in 1962 as the youngest school administrator in Sumter School District Two. Mrs. Alston dedicated thirty years of service at F.J. Delaine Elementary, seven years as acting administrator at Wedgefield Primary, and three years at Crestwood High before she retired.

She returned from retirement and served an additional two and a half years at F.J. Delaine Elementary for a total of forty-two and a half years of service to Sumter School District Two. She was recognized by former South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges and Sumter School District Superintendent J. Frank Baker for her outstanding service to the schools and children of South Carolina. On June 2, 2015, she was honored by South Carolina State Senators J. Thomas McElveen, III and Marlon Kimpson with a Senate Resolution to recognize and honor her for her many years of service to Sumter County and to Sumter County Schools.

In addition to her job as an administrator, Mrs. Alston served the school district as president of the Rafting Creek Parent/School Title I Board, as a member of the Sumter School District Two Title I Parent Board, and as a member of the Sumter School District Two School and District Educational Office Professionals, and as member of the Association of Educational Office Professionals of Sumter County, and as a member of the South Carolina Association of Educational Office Professionals.

Mrs. Alston was dedicated to serving her community as well, through her involvement with the Girl Scouts of America, F.J. Delaine Chapter President, as a member of the YWCA of the Upper Lowlands, Treasurer of the Rafting Creek Christmas Club, and as a member of the High Hill Burial League.

Mrs. Alston was a member of Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church in Rembert in her youth and attended Sunday school every Sunday. She was a member of the Sunbeam Choir, Sons of Abraham, and participated in everything where her talents in speaking and singing in churches could be celebrated under the leadership of Mrs. Wilhelmina Scott, the late Mrs. Geneva Washington, and all the Wade Sisters. While a member of High Hills African Methodist Episcopal Church in Dalzell, she was a member of Stewardess Board #5; one that she loved. She also served as a member of the Missionary Society, and treasurer for the development of the Youth choir. Along with her late husband, Mrs. Alston owned and operated: Alston Farming; Alston's Barbeque Club; and Jessie V. Alston, Sr. Grading & Paving.

Mrs. Alston loved and cared for all she came in contact with. She held many positions with a pleasant smile and worked faithfully until her illness.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her sister, Lenora "Pie" Alston.

She leaves to cherish precious memories and rejoice in her life: her loving children, Jessie V. Alston, Jr. of Michigan and Mariam "Tonya" Alston-Greene of Rembert, South Carolina; her grandsons, Brian L. Alston and Tyler J. Greene both of Rembert, South Carolina; two sisters, Bobbie (Lawrence) Rucker of Rural Hall, North Carolina, Joann (William) Johnson of Camden, South Carolina; a nephew and niece raised in the home, Retired Major Darrell W. (Lorine) Alston of Woodbridge, Virginia and Saralyn T. Alston, Esq. of Winston Salem, North Carolina; sisters-in-law, Jimmie Lee Harper, Susie Mae Alston, Helen A. Clanton all of Neptune, New Jersey, Dorothy (Calvin) Butts of Irvington, New Jersey, Essie Mae Williams of Asbury Park, New Jersey, and Margaret Wright of Sumter, South Carolina; two brothers--in-law, Marshall (Grace) Alston of Neptune, New Jersey and Charlie (Precious) Alston of Winston Salem, North Carolina; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **5**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Sumter
304 South Main Street
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-3381
palmermemorialchapel@sc.rr.com
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

Funeral Service

JUL **6**. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

High Hills AME
Dalzell, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Mary Lee Alston*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *I will miss Ms Alston. She was a wonderful person to work with and she did not mind letting you know what was on her mind. Thank you for your words of wisdom. Blanche Jones*



Blanche Jones - July 07, 2015 at 12:14 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of your loss. I attended DeLaine Elementary from 1958 to 1968. I remember a petite, soft-spoken, very fashionable young lady that assisted Principal LeRoy Anderson. Most of the little boys had a crush on her and the girls wanted to dress like her. Some may have been inspired to be a secretary because of her presence.*

She was a wonderful role model.

Mattie L. Choice

Mattie L. Choice - July 06, 2015 at 08:40 AM



“ *Praying that God will comfort your heart, lift your spirit and carry you through this time of sadness to a place of peace. With our deepest sympathy, Pageland Second Presbyterian Church U.S.A.*

Pageland Second Presbyterian Church . - July 05, 2015 at 09:16 PM



“ Shirley Tomlin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary Lee Alston



Shirley Tomlin - July 05, 2015 at 07:28 PM



“ I was deeply saddened to hear about the death of your mother. Mary was a beautiful person. Hold tightly to your memories and find comfort in knowing she is at peace resting in the arms of the Lord.

Shirley Tomlin - July 05, 2015 at 07:27 PM



“ 2 Corinthians 5:8 King James Bible
We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. (My thoughts and prayers are with you. May God hold you in His hands and provide you with comfort and hope. She is asleep waiting the resurrection to be united with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His Heavenly Host.) Love you Tonya, JV, Brian and Tyler. Our deepest condolences-Melvin and Elizabeth Jones Kirk

Elizabeth Kirk - July 05, 2015 at 03:08 PM



“ Elizabeth Kirk lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary Lee Alston



Elizabeth Kirk - July 05, 2015 at 02:52 PM

RG

“ Ronnie Gathers purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Mary Lee Alston.



Ronnie Gathers - July 04, 2015 at 12:36 PM

JC

“ Jennie Choice lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary Lee Alston



Jennie Choice - July 03, 2015 at 10:07 PM

PH

“ Pearline Hutto lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary Lee Alston



Pearline Hutto - July 03, 2015 at 09:41 PM

DJ

“ Deborah C. James lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary Lee Alston



Deborah C. James - July 03, 2015 at 09:45 AM