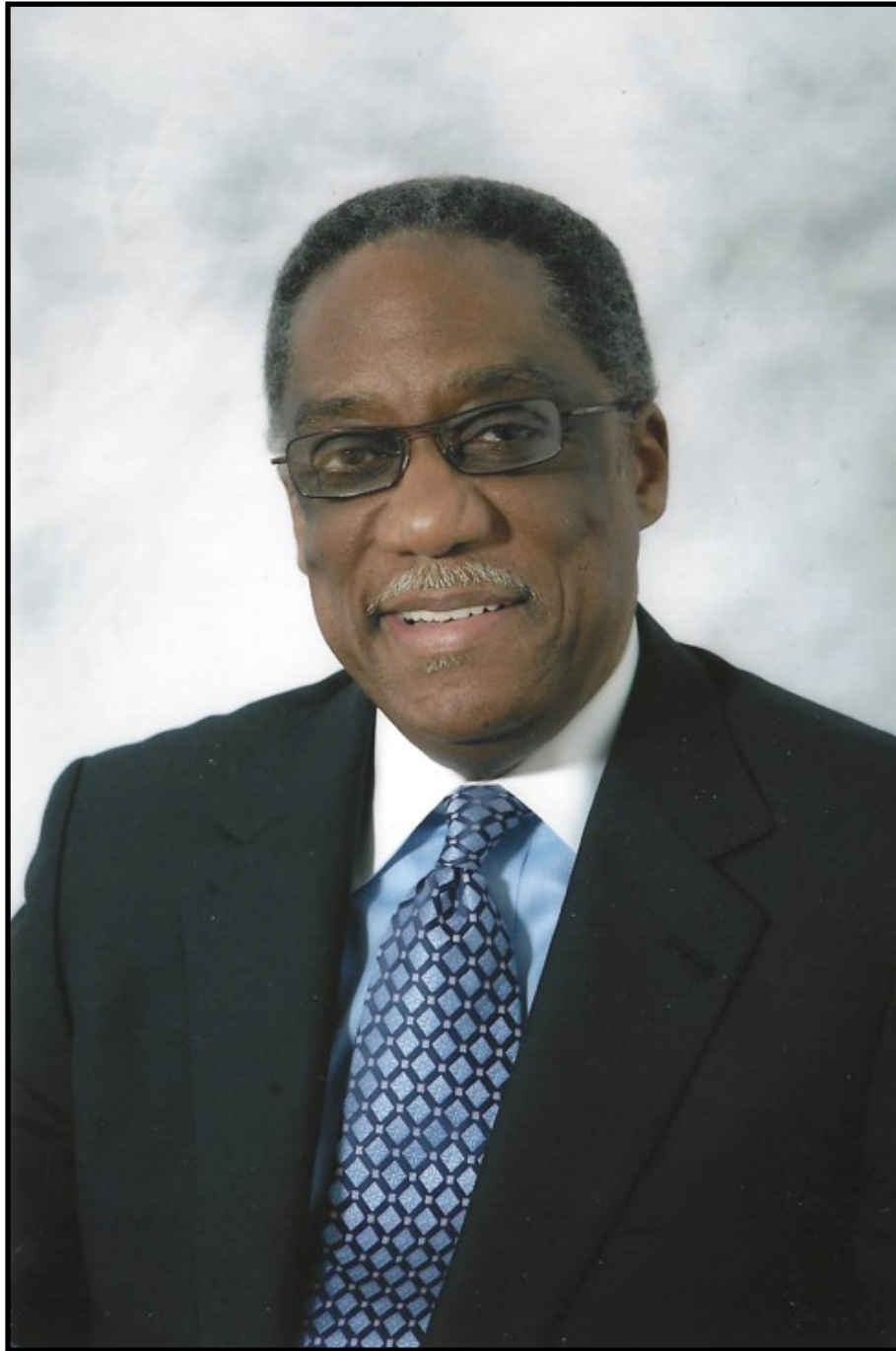


In Loving Memory
JAMES N. ALSTON



MEMORIAL SERVICE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2022
12:00 P.M.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
80 WALNUT ST.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30313

JAMES N. ALSTON

December 16, 1945 - January 25, 2022

James Norman Alston was born on December 16, 1945 in Society Hill, SC to the late J.C. Alston and Rose McRae Alston, childhood sweethearts and educators. Jim Alston was a product of Society Hill Schools and a graduate of Rosenwald High School (1963). At Rosenwald, Jim was on the varsity basketball team, the marching band, and served as a student school bus driver. After graduating as class valedictorian, he attended Benedict College in Columbia, SC, following in the footsteps of his parents and his sister, Judy. While at Benedict, he was elected Student Government Association President and Polemarch of the Gamma Mu Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Upon graduating Benedict with a degree in Mathematics in 1967, Jim accepted a position as a math teacher at Long High School in Cheraw, SC, and at age 21, became the youngest Chair of the Mathematics Department in county history. After leaving the classroom, Jim returned to his alma mater to serve as Director for Alumni Affairs at Benedict College.

In 1970, Jim was drafted into the United States Army and served two years of active military duty, receiving the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service.

Jim joined the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) as Area Development Director in Atlanta, GA in 1973. He was later promoted to Regional Director and Vice President, ultimately retiring as Senior Vice President in 2012 after 39 years of dedicated service. A member of the first generation of fundraisers for our country's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Jim engaged and directed staff and volunteers raising tens of millions of dollars on an annual basis.

As a member of the senior management team, Jim helped create local UNCF offices in 11 cities across the country, expanding the UNCF brand and measurably increasing fundraising at the local level. One of the things that put him – and UNCF – on the map was his work in developing and producing the “Lou Rawls Parade of Stars.” Over the years he led regional and national efforts that raised more than \$1.1 billion for UNCF. Jim was also involved with the establishment of the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, a \$1.6 billion partnership between UNCF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Throughout his career, Jim continued to grow academically and professionally. In 1973, Jim became one of the first African-Americans to earn a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from the University of South Carolina. In 1990, Jim completed the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School, and in 1994, Benedict College awarded him an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters. He later served as a lecturer at the New School for Social Research and a panelist at countless conferences on philanthropy and fundraising.

A Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Jim was initiated into Gamma Mu Chapter in the fall of 1964. He also held memberships in the Association of Fundraising Professionals, 100 Black Men of America, and the Anthropos Auxiliary of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Blue and Gold Scholarship Fund at Hackensack High School (Hackensack, NJ), the Salvation Army of New Jersey, and the Board of Trustees of Benedict College. In addition to his work with the Benedict College National Alumni Association, Jim served as a fundraising consultant to Benedict College upon retirement.

A deeply religious man, Jim began his spiritual walk at Bethesda Baptist Church in Society Hill, SC. He later joined Friendship Baptist Church in College Park, GA. For over 30 years, his final church home was Union Baptist Church in Passaic, NJ where he served as Vice Chair of the Trustee Board.

Married to his college sweetheart, Garcia Lunn Alston for 32 years until her passing in 2002, Jim resided in Columbia, SC, East Point, GA, Passaic, NJ, and Hackensack, NJ. After retiring to Fayetteville, GA, he was blessed to find love again and married Dianne Scruggs Alston, who was with him as he closed his eyes for the last time.

Jim Alston was predeceased by his first wife, ***Garcia Lunn Alston***, his parents, ***J.C. and Rose Alston***, and his only sibling, ***Judith Alston Heatley Gray***. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, ***Dianne Scruggs Alston***, his daughters, ***Melanie (Earl) Alston-Balaputra*** (Hackensack, NJ) and ***Alisa Alston*** (Atlanta, GA); a grandson, ***James Alston Balaputra*** (Hackensack, NJ) and a granddaughter ***Serena Grace Alston*** (Atlanta, GA); first cousin, ***Marian Rucker Shamu*** (Bowie, MD), a sister-in-law, ***Ms. Andrea Lunn-Herring*** (Timmonsville, SC), nieces, ***Regina Greene Pompey*** (Effingham, SC), ***Bonita Greene Bowens*** (Columbia, SC), ***Morgan (Donald) Lewis-Laster*** (Durham, NC); three nephews, ***Benjamin (Kathy) Heatley*** (Charlotte, NC), ***Samuel D. Gray*** (Florence, SC), ***David J. Lunn II*** (Timmonsville, SC); great nieces and great nephews, ***Jordan Heatley*** (Tampa, FL), ***Taylor Heatley*** (Charlotte, NC), ***Courtney Pompey*** (Florence, SC), and ***Joseph Pompey*** (Florence, SC), ***Peyton Jean Laster*** and ***Donald "Trey" Laster III*** (Durham, NC). Through his marriage to Dianne, James welcomed a mother-in-law, ***Mintha Marshall*** (Passaic, NJ), a bonus son, ***Marshal Scruggs*** (Orange, NJ), two bonus grandchildren, ***Zakiyah Scruggs*** (Charlotte, NC) and ***Te-Von Scruggs*** (Elizabeth, NJ); a bonus granddaughter, ***Kylah Stenson*** (Charlotte, NC); and sisters-in-law, ***Anita Marshall***, ***Rose Ann Edwards***, ***Mary Ellen (Russell) Jackson***, (Passaic, NJ), and ***Louise Bryant*** (Union City, GA). He will be missed by a host of relatives, church family, fraternity brothers, colleagues, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to:

[United Negro College Fund](#), 1805 7th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

[Benedict College](#), 1600 Harden Street, Columbia, SC 29204

[Salvation Army of New Jersey](#), 4 Gary Road, Union, NJ 07083

The memorial service will be available via live streaming at <https://fbcatlanta.org/>

12:00 p.m.

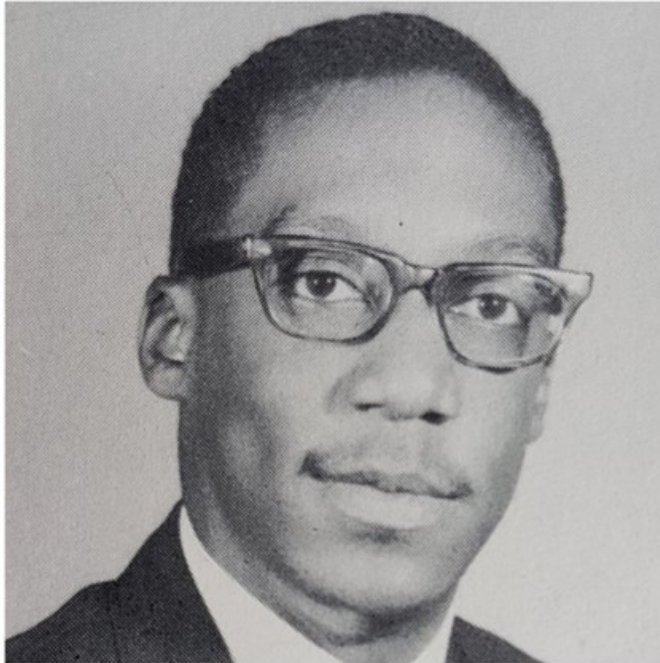
Interim Pastor, Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta GA

The Honorable Clarence L. James
Childhood Friend, Society Hill, SC

Musical Selection	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	T. Chisholm / W. Runyan
Acknowledgements		<i>Carl M. Williams</i> <i>Funeral Directors</i>
Eulogy		<i>Melanie Alston-Balaputra</i> Daughter
Organ Medley	<i>Jesus, I Come / Give Me Jesus / He Touched Me</i>	<i>Dr. Abbingdon</i>
Benediction		
Recessional	<i>On Jordan's Stormy Banks (I Am Bound for the Promised Land)</i>	Samuel Stennet
<i>*Virtual Participant</i>		

Honorary Pall Bearers

Allard Allston
Dwayne Ashley
Gary Bell, Sr.
Joseph Bryant
Gary Bell, Sr.
Virgil Ecton
Samuel Gray
Emmaus Harney
Ben Heatley
Maurice Jenkins
Steve McDaniel
Brandon McPherson
Fred Mitchell
Mel Shaw





Acknowledgements

Rev. Dr. Joseph Evans, Mr. Curtis Evans, and the Friendship Baptist Church Family
Dr. James Abbingdon, Director of Music Ministries and Church Organist
Pastor Kortney Haigler and the Union Baptist Church Family
Ms. Lucretia Holmes Smith
Pastor James Spann, Minister Nicole Rainey, and Living Water Worship Center Family
Dr. Michael Lomax and The UNCF Staff
Mrs. Billye Aaron
Mr. Robert Bolton
Benedict College Alumni Affairs
Mr. Carl Williams, Mr. Delano Francis, and the Carl Williams Funeral Directors Staff
Mr. Rolando Cantrell
Mr. Michael Jenkins of Graphics In Atlanta
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Mr. Cedric Davis
Mr. Wellington Wilder
National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Bergen County Alumnae Chapter
The Residents of The Villas at Gingercake, Fayetteville, GA
Bergen County Technical Schools

In Appreciation

We extend our sincerest gratitude to the clergy and other worship participants for the uplifting gift of their time and service.

We thank all of the attendees for their presence and sharing with us, in-person and virtually.

We are indebted to the medical and home care staff for their patience and care.

We appreciate the funeral director and staff for their cooperation, support, and accommodation.

We acknowledge the many comforting messages, prayers, visits, cards, flowers, donations, and other expressions of love. Words cannot express how much these acts of kindness have meant to us.

Whatever your contribution, it has helped to make the inevitable more acceptable. It is only by the grace of God and your love and support that we are able to bear this loss. From each of us to all of you – thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

-The Family of James N. Alston



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