



The family of Dr. Wessyllyne A. Simpson would like to thank everyone for the love that has been shown throughout her extended illness and during this time. The faithfulness of family and friends has helped us to endure, and it strengthens us to see how much she was loved.

Services by Temple and Sons Funeral Homes ~ Oklahoma City, OK

Program Layout and Design ~ Soncearay "Colette" Higgins ~ Higgins Printing Services, Guthrie, OK

Final Committal will be at Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, Oklahoma

~ Honorary Pallbearers ~

<i>Michael A. Simpson, Jr.</i>	<i>Mark A. Simpson</i>
<i>Erick Harris, Esq.</i>	<i>Christopher D. Harris, MD</i>
<i>Romeo Alford, Jr.</i>	<i>Geoffrey Wilson</i>

Flower Bearers

<i>Emily Patterson Harris, EdD</i>	<i>Gwynell Patterson Wilson</i>
<i>Kendall Wilson</i>	<i>Jordan Alford</i>
<i>Mytay Green</i>	<i>Erica Alford Dooley</i>
<i>LaCher Simpson</i>	<i>Jimmie Lee Pickens</i>
<i>Brenda Alford</i>	

Memorial Services

Friday, December 11, 2020

Temple and Sons

Funeral Home

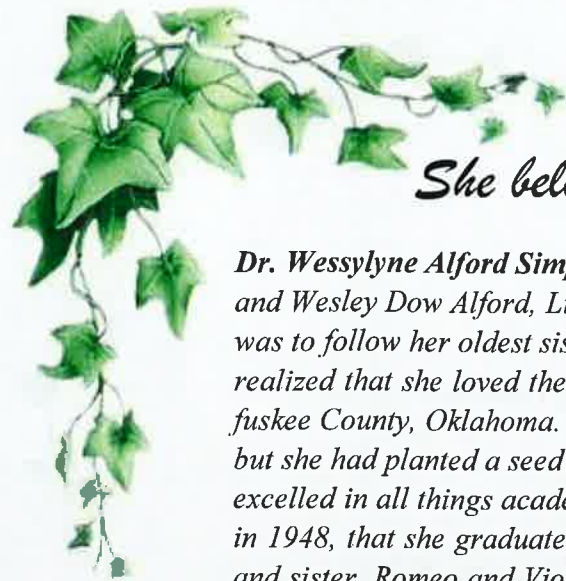
*Celebrating the Life of
Dr. Wessyllyne Alford Simpson*

Sunrise - November 1, 1930

Sunset - November 30, 2020



*Reverend Everett Mack, Officiant
Pastor, New Hope Baptist Church,
Bristow, OK*



She believed she could, so she did!

Obituary

Dr. Wessylne Alford Simpson was born into this life, November 1, 1930, to Emily Dunlap Alford and Wesley Dow Alford, Little Hill Community, Oklahoma. As a little girl, her favorite pastime was to follow her oldest sister, Sylvia, to school to watch her teach. It was at the age of five that she realized that she loved the classroom. Her schooling began at Little Hill Elementary School in Okfuskee County, Oklahoma. Tragically, by the time Wessylne turned nine, Sylvia was taken in death, but she had planted a seed that would last throughout Wessylne's lifetime. Early on, Wessylne excelled in all things academic, but most especially in science and mathematics. It was no surprise, in 1948, that she graduated as Valedictorian, Clearview High School, and then joined her brother and sister, Romeo and Violet, at Langston University. Upon enrollment, she knew she would major in Chemistry and minor in Mathematics.

Throughout her life, Wessylne described Langston University's profound impact on her. It was the place that changed her from "a little country girl" to an educated woman. One of those big influences was her membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Following in her sister Violet's footsteps, Wessylne was initiated into the Alpha Zeta Chapter of the sorority in 1949. As an undergraduate, she served as Basileus and Dean of Pledges. While at LU, she also served as one of a select group of senior women who worked with freshmen girls to ease their transition into college life. She was also a member of the Association of Women Students, Beta Rho Tau Chemical Society, PanHellenic Council, and the Student Christian Association. Wessylne graduated in 1952, Summa Cum Laude in Chemistry. It was on the campus of Langston University, specifically in the Chemistry Department, that she met and fell in love with fellow faculty member, Mr. James Allan Simpson in the Fall of 1957, and by late spring of 1958 they were married. Being a kindred spirit in their mutual love for HBCUs, they decided that they would devote their careers to serving at one. Together they raised three children, Michael, James Wesley, and Lynne who all went on to graduate from Langston University before venturing off to receive graduate degrees at other universities.

Shortly after finishing LU, Wessylne acquired a position as a chemist with a paper company, making her the first African American and first woman to have this position with that organization. But, this stint was short lived because she couldn't resist going back to work at 'Dear Langston' when called upon to come back to teach in the Chemistry Department. Realizing that her career was to be found in higher education, Dr. Simpson decided to pursue her graduate degrees at nearby Oklahoma State University. Her first semester of her Master's program, the university was still segregated. She was allowed to attend classes, but didn't have a choice for where she could live on campus. Despite this, she went on to receive her M.S. and Ed.D. degrees from OSU in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Her dissertation was entitled "Self-Concept and Career Choice among Black Women." Like her life, she dedicated this dissertation to her family, "To my husband, James Allan, sons, Michael and James, and our daughter, Lynne, for their encouragement, support and understanding, this study is dedicated."

Dr. Simpson was a well-respected and highly dedicated educator, role model, and mentor throughout her career. Always armed with poise and wit, she was often called upon to be the keynote speaker for various events. Known for her commitment to education, Dr. Simpson was present at the establishment of the Oklahoma Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and served as its very first president. Additionally her commitment won her an education citation from the Oklahoma State Legislature and membership on the Southern Regional Education Board. But the love of her students and fellow faculty mattered most, and with that she was named Langston University's Teacher of the Year in 1978. Dr. Simpson was affiliated with many professional organizations including the Society of Professors of Education, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa and was a Charter Member of Epsilon Chapter, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, and Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education. In addition to all of her organizational affiliations, she was a member of the Oklahoma State

Dr. Simpson retired from her beloved Langston University as Dean of the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences in 1987. While at Langston University, she served in numerous capacities from Chemistry Professor to Dean of Women to Dean of Education. Even after her retirement, she came back to work as a consultant to assist with the accreditation process in the School of Education as late as the mid-1990s and taught for the newly established Graduate Program in the School of Education.

Wessylne was an especially proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and reached the pinnacle of her sorority goals when she earned the honor of serving as the 22nd Mid-Western Regional Director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, 1986-1990. The states under her jurisdiction were Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. At the time she began this position, she had been a proud member of the Sorority for 37 years. Her time in Alpha Zeta laid the foundation for a lifetime of service with the sisterhood. Her graduate membership included her commitment to Alpha Upsilon Omega Chapter in Langston, OK, where she could continue to serve the sorority on the campus of Langston University alongside those women who had initiated her as an undergraduate. She remained a steadfast member of this chapter until the time of her death and that chapter regularly checked on her throughout her illness. As a graduate member, she served as Basileus, Graduate Advisor, Tamiouchos, Parliamentarian and many other offices within her chapter. On the national stage in the organization, in addition to her time as Regional Director, she served as chair of the International Standards Committee and became a regular instructor for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Leadership Fellows Program. During her time as a Regional Director, she organized the Mid-Western Council of Regional Directors (CORD) which consisted of former Regional Directors to give support and recommendations to the current Regional Director. She also was responsible for establishing two awards in the region: Outstanding Golden Member and Outstanding Senior Member. Soror Simpson's dedication to the region was recognized when the "Wessylne A. Simpson Outstanding Undergraduate Member Award" was named in her honor.

Baptized as a child at North Fork Baptist Church, Wessylne was a dedicated member of New Hope Baptist Church, Langston, Oklahoma for more than 40 years. Her religious activities included membership in the Women's Missionary Union and the Deaconess Board. Any time she led a holiday children's program, she made them spectacular events that were not to be missed.

Wessylne was a pillar of the Alford family and a regular recruiter to LU at every family reunion. At one point, there were 17 cousins to be found at LU in one semester. Much of the history that is known in the family can be attributed to the love affair that she had with the study of genealogy and her dedication to preserve the Alford family legacy. In 1992, she formally authored *Promises: Heritage of an African American Family*, which chronicled the descendants of Solomon Alford and had photographs going back to the Antebellum period. As part of her research, she traveled in the South gathering more data for the text. She was also a regular host for family reunions recognizing the importance of maintaining family ties.

Dr. Wessylne Alford Simpson departed this life on November 30, 2020. She is preceded in death by her parents Emily Dunlap Alford and Wesley Dow Alford; son James Wesley Simpson; son-in-law James W. Harding, Sr.; granddaughter Angela Nicole Simpson; brothers - George, Charlie, Wesley, Lesley, Major, Sylvester, Freddie and Romeo; and sisters - Sylvia, Ione, Ethel, Gertie Mae, Sunshyne and Ernestyne.

Cherishing her beautiful memories are her husband of 62 years, James Allan Simpson; son Michael A. Simpson, Sr. (Monica); daughter Dr. Lynne Simpson-Harding; daughter-in-law Brenda Simpson; sister Violet Alford Patterson; grandsons Michael Simpson, Jr. and Mark Simpson; granddaughter Sydney Michelle Scott; great-grandsons Jorel Simpson & Jasia Simpson; bonus grandchildren James W. Harding, Jr. (Chara), Lauren Harding, and Melanie Burns; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family, sorority sisters and friends.





~ Programme ~

Musical Prelude
Welcome / Prayer

Mitchell Pierce, Jr.
Reverend Everett Mack
New Hope Baptist Church, Langston, Oklahoma

Scripture Reading
Old Testament Scripture -

Reverend Robert Hubbard, Jr.
Wildewood Christian Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

New Testament Scriptures -

Pastor Mark A. Vaughn
Minister, Creston Hills Church of Christ, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Musical Selection

"The Lord's Prayer" ~ Richard Simpson, Brother-in-Law

Resolutions / Acknowledgements

Redelia Grayson, New Hope Baptist Church Clerk

Musical Selection -

Sandra Horton, New Hope Baptist Church Choir

Reflections

Langston University family

Joyce Henderson

Links, Inc.

Alice Strong-Simmons

Alford family

Erick Harris, Esq.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Resolutions read by Maggieann Green

Reflections by Priscilla Metoyer

All members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated please stand and join in the recitation of the 2nd verse of the National Hymn

Selection

Lee Patterson, Jr., M.D., Nephew

Words of Comfort

Rev. Cecil McCurdy, Pastor, Christ the King, OKC

Recessional - In accordance with Covid-19 Social Distancing Policies, the family asks that you proceed directly to your vehicle after the service.





Love is family

Love is family





Family is Love





The Junior Counselors

The Junior Counselors, a group of selected senior women, live in freshman dormitories so as to aid the freshman girls in adjusting to college life.



From "The Ivy"

"So let my life like the Ivy be. A help to man and a wreath for Thee."

2nd verse of the Alpha Kappa Alpha National Hymn
 So together anew, We will pledge our faith
 And united we'll forge a way, Greater laurels to win
 Greater tasks to begin, To thy honor and glory today.

