



A.D. "Al" Alford

January 1, 1900 - February 3, 2010

A.D. "Al" Alford, age 79, of McKinney, Texas, passed away February 3, 2010, in McKinney. Al was born in Pickton, Texas, to George Dowl and Mary Belle (Harrelson) Alford. Al graduated in 1948 from the original Boyd High School in McKinney and later earned an associate degree from Arlington State College. He remained active with The University of Texas Arlington as President of the UTA Alumni Association. Al was the founder and owner of Alford Insurance Agency in McKinney for many years. Al was a college baseball umpire for thirty-seven years and was well respected in both high school and collegiate umpire associations across the country. His many achievements included the 1974 College World Series, UIL state baseball tournament for four years, and Connie Mack World Series Baseball in Farmington, New Mexico. Al officiated at the plate in the longest baseball game in Southwest Conference History - a full twenty innings. He founded the McKinney Mavericks Summer Baseball Organization in 1971 and was instrumental in bringing the Mickey Mantle World Series to McKinney. Al was a past member of Collin County and Dallas Baseball Umpire Associations and a member of the ABUA Umpire Hall of Fame. He was a member of First Baptist Church in McKinney where he served for over thirty years as a deacon and greeter. Al was an avid golfer who never had a bad lie along with two verified holes in one. He was presently member of McKinney Parks and Recreation Board and a former McKinney City Councilman. Al proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean War where he received a purple heart. He is survived by his son, Lance Alford and wife, Debi of McKinney, Texas; daughters, Beth Ann Parson and husband, Thomas of Celina, Texas, Cynthia Helton and husband, Jody of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Amy Herron and husband, David, also of Celina, Texas; grandchildren, Maezi, Carli, and Mitchell Alford, Kristen Coffman and husband, Matt, Alyssa Watson, Colin, Jon, and Julie Helton, and Katie and Matt Herron; great-grandchildren, Abby and Whitney Coffman; brothers, Grady Joe Alford of Wichita, Kansas and Bobby Dwayne Alford of Texas; sister, Peggy Joyce Alford Schuster of Richardson, Texas; and numerous other loving relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley on July 4, 2007. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, February 6, 2010 at First Baptist Church, 1615 W. Louisiana St., McKinney, Texas, 75071 with Dr. H. Bailey Stone officiating. Interment will follow at Ridgeview Memorial Park in Allen, Texas. The family will receive friends during a visitation from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Friday evening in the parlor at First Baptist Church in McKinney. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home in Allen, Texas.

Memorials

My name is Carli Alford, granddaughter of Al Alford. My grandfather has been gone for 6 years. He died when I was only 8 years old. I remember going into the limo with my dad, mom, sister, brother, cousins, aunts, and uncles. I remember people crying on the way to the funeral. It was very confusing for an 8 year old. My grandfather was a man who accomplished many great achievements, such as have his own baseball field. If my grandfather was still living to this day, he would've been 116. I miss him dearly, but sadly lung cancer took his life. Thank You, Carli Alford.

CARLI ALFORD, APRIL 1, 2016

I just recently heard of your loss. May God give you comfort during this difficult time.

ANNE STAPLETON SKRABANEK, FEBRUARY 22, 2010

I worked for Al & Shirley at the agency. They taught me so much and was such great employers. I worked for them for many years until I moved to Florida in 1991. We remained in touch whenever I came back to visit in McKinney or they came to visit Florida. What a beautiful, talented and loving family, I have great admiration and I am truly honored to have known Al and Shirley Alford. We will miss them dearly. Barbara Musick bmusick57@yahoo.com

BARBARA ANN MUSICK, FEBRUARY 19, 2010

So sorry to hear about Al passing away . He made a big difference in my sons lives when they were young and many , many others. We have sat many hours watching the games he coached and umpired. Rest in peace...

RAY AND DOROTHY DAVIS, FEBRUARY 19, 2010

We are so sorry for your loss. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

JACK AND DENICE BURNSIDE WEBB, FEBRUARY 16, 2010

I too have fond memories of Al around the baseball field. As a young boy, it was exciting to listen to Al's stories about umpiring all of those great college

games and all of the great players he came in contact with. When he would umpire your game, you could also count on some coaching either during the game or after because he cared about the game and the kids playing. I think its a great tribute when you drive down White street in Mckinney, Texas and you look over and see "Al Alford Stadium" at the Mckinney High School baseball field. Lance, Amy and family, I am proud to have known your father. With deepest sympathies, Darrell Smith

DARRELL SMITH, FEBRUARY 11, 2010

It was a privilege and honor to know Mr. Alford. I enjoyed every hour I spent with him and will miss him greatly (especially on the golf course). Thank you for asking us to be a part of of his life.

CHRIS ENSMANN, FEBRUARY 9, 2010

I remember many fun days with all of you on Red Bud Trail and at First Baptist many years ago. I'm sorry you have lost both your parents. My prayers and thoughts are with you.

KIM EVANS MURFF, FEBRUARY 8, 2010

My first memories of Al were playing American Legion Baseball for him in 65-66. He was the county baseball program for high school kids. Al was always supportive of kids and the game. The number of Kids lives that were touched by him is immeasurable. No one made a large impact on youth sports in Collin County than Al Alford.

ROBBIE CLARK, FEBRUARY 8, 2010

Cynthia, Your father was obviously a great daddy and man of God. I'm sorry I didn't have the opportunity to know him. But, I'm blessed to know you who is following his legacy by serving our Lord and others selflessly each and every day. How proud your Daddy must be. Lots of love, Michele

MICHELE SMITH, FEBRUARY 8, 2010

A true legend. Both as a man and official. We have lost a true leader.

NAT MAXSON, FEBRUARY 7, 2010

Beth Ann, Cynthia, Amy and Lance--I am so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. I can still remember babysitting the four of you when Lance was the

cutest little redhead running around in diapers. You were living in the house on Redbud before we moved across the street in August of 1967. Your parents were both very special people and McKinney won't be the same without them. I know you'll miss them terribly. May you feel the Lord's presence like never before. Love, Gay Young Pratt Ahne

GAY YOUNG AHNE, FEBRUARY 7, 2010

To Al's family and friends, Al and I were classmates at Boyd High, played some baseball together and double dated a little. But mostly we were just good friends. In the fall of 2000 Al and Shirley stopped in Denver while on one of their long vacations to say hello. The two wives got to know and like each other while Al and I got in some golf- the most enjoyable round I have ever played, due to renewing our old friendship. We talked on the phone occasionally so I was fully aware of how devastated he was because of his loss of Shirley. I am so sorry he is gone but those grand old memories will linger. I share your grief. Blessings to you all.

JIM THOMAS, FEBRUARY 7, 2010

We appreciated Al and Shirley so much and the Alford family. Al always had a smile on his face as he greeted people at the church. He was a pleasant and humble man. He was successful because he genuinely cared and followed his passion of inspiring young people through baseball and through his example. James told a joke that Al had told him a long time ago. Someone had yelled to the referee that the umpire was blind. Al said, "Well I am sure it "sounded" like a strike to him." Al and Shirley served the Lord with gladness and with honor. As we drive by Al Alford Field, we are proud to have known Al because of who he was because we remember when he was out there all alone with hammer and nails, repairing a very shoddy- looking field house before the present facilities were built. Al deserves great recognition and credit for building the baseball program in McKinney and McKinney's world fame in hosting baseball events. We pray that you will feel God's comforting presence in a special way during this very difficult time of loss. Florene and James West

FLORENE AND JAMES WEST, FEBRUARY 6, 2010

To the Alford family. We are so sorry for your loss. We miss our next door neighbors. God bless you all.

JOHNNY AND SUE LINDSEY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010

Our thoughts and prayers to the Alford family. Shirley and Al were such fine people and we considered them dear friends.

TED & CAROLYN BRADY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010

Al was a much loved and highly respected member of this community, and he touched so many lives. He will be greatly missed. Please accept my sincerest condolences.

MARTHA HILL DAVIS, FEBRUARY 6, 2010

Al was a very nice man who helped me a great deal in my umpiring career. He gave me tons of pointers and assisted me in recommending me to Art Blair, the SWC Supervisor of Umpires at the time. I will never forget his kindness and support of me and other young umpires. He will be missed.

DAVID WILEY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

I'm so sorry to hear about your father. Your father and mother were wonderful witnesses for Christ and made me feel like part of your family. I have many happy memories of time spent with them.

SHERYL BRUMMER, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Dear Beth Ann & Family, We were so sorry to hear of your loss. Although we did not know your Father, we heard many wonderful things about him. We send our love, thoughts, & sympathy to the entire family. Beth Ann, you are such a sweet and wonderful person, until I know your Dad must have been a Super Person. Love & Sympathy, Sandy & MG Lewis

SANDY & MG LEWIS, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Al was a true professional in his work as a baseball umpire. But more than that, he was a warm, compassionate person. He was a true friend. I will hold his entire family in my thoughts and prayers.

LLOYD NICHOLS, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

We can only imagine Al's new Field of Dreams in Heaven... You all are in thoughts and prayers.

TOM AND WENDI GRACY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

It was a pleasure spending some time with Al over the years on the field, his field on White Street. I was always amazed at the amount of time that he gave to the kids and the game of baseball. He will be missed. May he rest in Peace.

TIM J WHITE, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

The Alfords were my neighbors for as long as I can remember until I left home for college. We have many wonderful shared experiences. What a blessed family! I am sending my love and prayers.

CAROLE LYNN (SHELTON) RUMMAGE AND FAMILY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

I remember well that 1st set of scrimmages that Larry Brazeal spoke of. Many fond memories over the 20+ yrs that I umpired and coached. Al, along with Lindsey Gunter, are the reason that many of us have revolved our lives around baseball. Umpiring paid my way through college which ultimately allowed me the opportunity to coach HS baseball. I owe Al many thanks for that. He will be missed.

RICKY WAYNE CARTER, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Al Alford contributions to McKinney youth baseball will be felt for many years to come. Al Alford unselfishly gave of his time and money to provide a place for youth to learn and grow with the game of baseball. I am honored to have known Al Alford.

MIKE SMITH, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

I am so sorry for your loss. May the Lord comfort you today and in the days to come. My love to you all.

CHARM M CAMERON, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

*Al was a tremendous friend and supporter of the American Amateur Baseball Congress. Al has now moved to umpire the "A" team of all teams, and we wish him well. He will be missed, especially our conversations in the shed at the ballpark. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Richard Neely
President AABC*

RICHARD NEELY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Lance and Amy, Just letting you know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

2 Corinthians 11:29 Love, Laurie Hubert

LAURIE HUBERT, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

We express our deepest condolences to the entire Alford family. It goes without saying that your dad was a tremendous individual and he has had a great impact on many young men that he encountered. May God bless you in the time of sorrow. With our love and respect. Bob

BOB, MANDY & BOBBY CURTIS, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Such a humble man- I saw him several times mowing the grass on the field named for him.... He will be missed at the Park, Recreation and Open Spaces Board meetings

PETER W BAILEY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Al took myself, Ricky Carter and Randy Bell to our first baseball game at Wylie back in 1979. Al must of taught us something right because we all stayed in it for ,many years, me I stayed 22 years. I called alot of games with Al and alot of fon memories of thoes games with Al. AL, was one of the best umpires that I ever called with. Al was MR. Baseball in Mckinney Texas

LARRY PAUL BRAZEAL, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

I will miss Al. He was a good man and always a gentleman to me. Those of us that were involved in baseball will miss seeing him at the field. I always looked forward to playing in tournaments he put on, because i knew everyone would be treated the same.

CHARLIE WORTHAM, FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Mr. & Mrs. Alford have been such a blessing to the Boyds. Your mother and father were true servants who exhibited Christ-like character qualities in everything they did. They were such an asset to McKinney, First Baptist Church and any group in which they associated. Thank you for sharing them with us. God Bless, Blake Boyd

BLAKE BOYD, FEBRUARY 4, 2010

Alford family, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your father. He was a GREAT man. My thoughts and prayers were with the family. May God comfort and bless you.

CHARLENE AUSTIN, FEBRUARY 4, 2010

Sorry to hear about your loss. Give me a call if you need any thing.He will be missed greatly.

WARREN RAY HUTCHERSON, FEBRUARY 4, 2010

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