

### *Roll Bearers*

Mayra  
Otis  
Feliz  
Sammy  
Deborah  
George  
Gina

### *Searettes*

Pam  
Sterling  
Wendy  
Joe  
Adina  
Shawn  
Veronica

### *Floral Ladies - Family and Friends*

### *Acknowledgement*

*The Alston family would like to sincerely thank all the families and friends for their support and prayers during Vanessa's illness. Your love and prayers during our loss is greatly appreciated. We ask you to continue to pray for us as we struggle to carry on. May God richly bless each of you.*

*The Alston Family*



### *Professional Services Entrusted To*

*Knotts & Son Funeral Home  
W.H. "Chip" Knotts, Jr., Mortician  
1501 Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Siler City, North Carolina  
(919) 742-4602  
[www.knottsfuneralhome.com](http://www.knottsfuneralhome.com)*

## *Homegoing Mass for Vanessa Gladys Alston*



*Saturday, March 4, 2006  
11:00 a.m.*

*St. Julia Catholic Church  
Hwy. 64 East  
Siler City, North Carolina 27344*



## Order Of Service

Priests:

Rev. Joe Madden OFM. Conv.

Rev. Joseph Vetter

\*Ivy Beyond the Wall ..... AKA Sorority Incorporated  
\*Ceremony held before Mass Service\*

Entrance Hymn ..... Dr. Jim Schwankl

1<sup>st</sup> Reading (Book of Wisdom, Chap 3, vs. 1-6) ..... Mary L. Dudek

Psalm Response (23rd Psalm) ..... Dr. Jim Schwankl

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading (Letter of Paul to the Romans, Chap 6, vs. 3-9) .... Marie Crocker

Gospel (Book of St. John) ..... Father Joe Madden

Prayers of the Faithful ..... Father Joe Madden

Presentation of the Gifts ..... Family

Offertory Hymn ("The Battle Is Not Yours") ..... Soloist Rose Glover

Eucharistic Acclamation ..... Congregation

Lord's Prayer ..... Congregation

Sign of Peace ..... Congregation

Communion

Solo during Communion (His Eye is on the Sparrow) ..... Soloist

Solo ..... Soloist

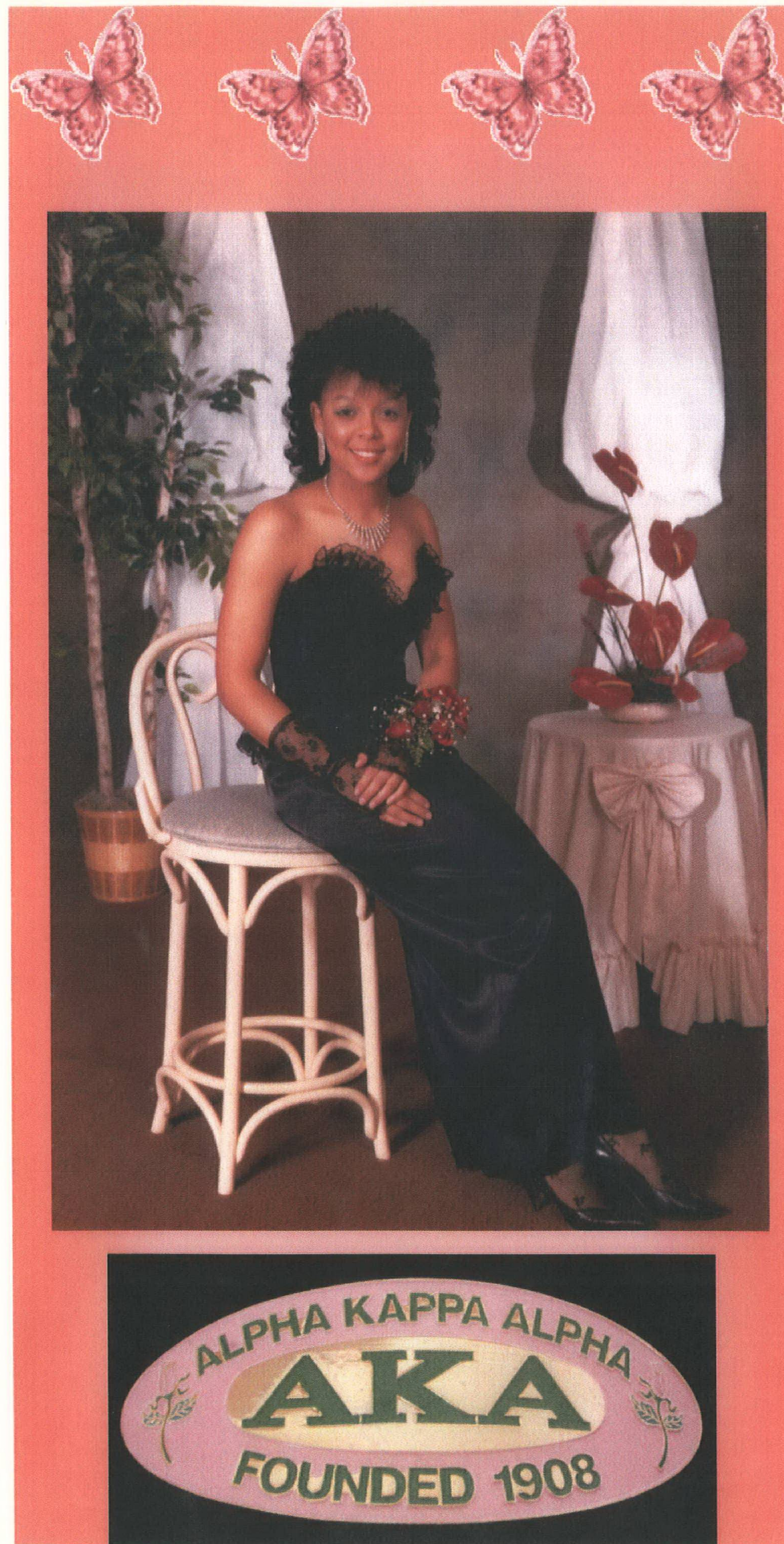
Acknowledgment ..... Rev. Rose McMillian

Poem Reading

Recessional ..... Recessional Song  
(I Won't Complain)

## Interment

Chatham Memorial Park  
Siler City, North Carolina



## Obituary

Vanessa Gladys Alston was born April 22, 1970 in Siler City, NC and was a member of St. Julia Catholic Church in Siler City, NC and Queen of Apostle in Alexandria, VA.

At the age of 17, she was diagnosed and treated for Osteosarcoma (bone cancer). Through perseverance and determination, in 1988 she graduated from Jordan Matthews High School in Siler City, NC. She continued her education by receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC and received her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Vanessa's first job was with the Department of Defense in Memphis, TN, where she held a position as a Social Worker. She continued developing her career by working with the Department of Justice as a Program Specialist in Washington DC.

Some of Vanessa's many outstanding achievements were Senior Class President, Homecoming Queen (twice), Mrs. Jordan Matthews, recognition in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, her outstanding contributions to the mission and goals of the Office of Justice Programs, receiving the Assistant Attorney General's Award in December 2002, receiving an award for outstanding services from the Office for Victim's Crime and Defense Logistics Agency, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated.

Having over 22 surgeries and exhausting all treatment alternatives, Vanessa was received by her Lord at 6:13 a.m. on February 25, 2006. Through her trials and tribulations she displayed a courageous attitude, which only having favor from God allowed her to endure.

Her life was tremendously exemplified through a message,

*"Don't Quit, Live on Hope and Reach your Goals in Life".*

which she delivered at her High School graduation. Although she will be sorely missed by all, her legacy of faith, courage, hope, love and determination will live in us FOREVER.

Vanessa leaves behind a loving Mother, best friend and companion, Theresa Fontenot Alston; a loving Father, best friend and mentor, Leon Alston, Sr.; a loving brother and confidant, Leon Alston, Jr. (Linda, a loving sister-in-law); two adorable nephews whom she cherished as her own, Adrian and Steven Alston; two special friends, John Ceaser and Cheryl Hill; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.