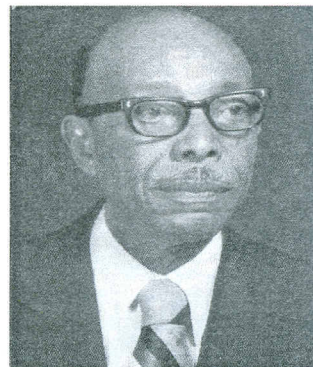


Frank Howard Alston

Class of 1935



Frank Howard Alston was born in Durham, North Carolina on November 1, 1918, the son of the late James O. Alston and Mrs. Bessie Alston. He departed this life on Tuesday, March 28, 1989. Known by his affectionate name “Prof”, Mr. Alston was highly respected, admired and loved both locally and nationally and was a strong disciplinarian. His high ideals of service to his fellowman, his dedication to duty, his profound interest in cultural and educational development will be cherished and remembered forever.

He received his early education in Durham, graduating from Hillside High School with high honors. North Carolina College (now NCCU) awarded the B.S. degree in Chemistry and French and the M.A. degree in Chemistry and Education. He expanded his professional growth with graduate studies in guidance and attendance counseling at the National Science Foundation’s Summer Institute at NCCU as well as drug abuse workshops at UNC-CH and UNC-G.

He began his teaching career at Halifax County Training School where he taught Chemistry, French and Biology. From 1942 to 1945, he served meritoriously during World War II in the U.S. Armed Services with the Corps of Engineers in the European Theater of Operations in France, England and Germany. Upon return to civilian life, he taught at Burton Elementary School. His longest tenure as an educator was at Hillside High School as a Science and Chemistry teacher, Dean of Boys, Interim Principal and Assistant Principal. He retired from Hillside in 1979 after thirty-three years of dedicated service.

As a dedicated member of Russell Memorial C.M.E. Church, Mr. Alston served as Church Announcer, Steward, and Treasurer for thirty-five years, Chairman of the Finance Committee and Chairman of the Church History Committee. He was a loyal member of the Church Fellowship and Social Action Committees.

His professional and community affiliations include memberships in the NAACP, North Carolina Central University Alumni Association, 1200 Block Rosewood Street Community Club, Durham Citizens Advisory Committee, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity where he served as Polemarch, Chaplain and Chairman of the Humanitarian Committee. In addition, he served as President of the Durham City Association of Educators.

Mr. Alston was the recipient of numerous honors, awards, citations, plaques, recognitions and appreciations from educational, civic, religious and fraternal groups including the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, Durham County Commissioners, etc.

In 1977 The Hillside High School Class of 1952 honored Mr. Alston by establishing the Frank Howard Alston Scholarship. Annual observances of the Frank Howard Alston Scholarship Day were held in October from 1991 to 2008 at Russell Memorial C.M.E. Church.

The NCAE named Frank H. Alston to the North Carolina Educational Hall of Fame in 1993 for outstanding contributions to public schools in North Carolina. And February 17, 1989 was proclaimed Frank Howard Alston Day in Durham by Mayor Wilbur Gulley.

Mr. Alston was married to the former Mamie Carolyn Vinson, a retired Elementary Teacher of 40 years of service. She continues her husband’s legacy through words and deeds.

The National Alumni Association of Hillside High School salutes one of its own – Mr. Frank Howard Alston.