

Creek HC C June 18, 2000

**MRS. OPAL CHRISTINE ALFORD**

Mrs. Opal Christine Alford went to be with her lord on Friday, May 19, 2000 in Tyler, after a long illness. She was born March 20, 1919 to Andrew and Ida Watson. She attended and graduated from Dyersburg High School in June 1938.

Mrs. Alford was a devoted wife to Dorman Alford, whom she married Dec. 10, 1942 while he was stationed in the Army Air Corp at Dyersburg Army Airfield. After the war Mr. and Mrs. Alford moved to Houston in January 1947, where they lived until retiring in 1983, then moved to Austonio.

While living in Houston, Mrs. Alford was a volunteer librarian with the Houston Independent School District as well as church librarian at Oak Forest Baptist Church, where she and her husband were charter members. She was also librarian at the Lazy Brook Baptist Church as well as Austonio Baptist Church.

Mrs. Alford's employment career started with the J.C. Penny Company where she worked for a number of years,

then she, was one of the first employees of the new Champions Golf Club, working directly for Jackie Burke and Jimmy Demaret. She was also an Office Manager to Jimmy Burke, where she spent the next ten years developing a deep love for golf. Mrs. Alford left Champions, and joined the Coca-Cola Company canners division as office manager, for the next 12 years, after which she left Coca-Cola and worked as executive secretary to senior vice-president Jim Plant at Mischer Corporation, then retiring. Even during her employment career Mrs. Alford's love of music, books and education prompted her to take private piano lessons, be the church librarian, as well as continuing her education, by going back to college majoring in English and History.

After retiring and moving to Austonio, Mrs. Alford worked as a volunteer with the Ladies Auxiliary East Texas Medical Center eventually becoming its president.

Mrs. Alford and her husband were among the first volunteers for the Houston County Historical Commission working for Eliza Bishop. She worked faithfully and diligently for her church Austonio Baptist Church, which she loved dearly. Her love of flowers and gardening can still be seen by the rows of trees she planted at Austonio Community Center.

She was a loving and caring mother to two sons W.D. Alford and wife Janice of Austin and Kenneth D. Alford of Austonio. Mrs. Alford's pride and joy were her three grandchildren Sandy Newton of Highland, Jeff and Brian Alford both of Austin, as well as her great-grandchildren Sarah and Katie Newton of Highland.

Mrs. Alford is survived by her husband of 58 years Dorman Alford of Austonio; sisters Serena Hill of Dyersburgh Tenn., Mae Rice and husband Doug of Newbern Tenn; brothers Rev Willard Watson and wife Emily of Dyersburg, Tenn., Gene and wife Mary Lee of Dyersburg Tenn., Thomas Ray and wife Bernice of Coos Bay, Oregon and Buster L. Watson of Covington, Tenn., as well as other numerous nieces, nephews.

Funeral services for Mrs. Alford were held Sunday, May 21, at 2 p.m. at the Austonio Baptist with Pastor Frank Oswald officiating, with special message brought by the Rev. Willard Watson. Interment followed at the Creek Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Lee Lundy, Tommy Lundy, Bill Alford, Jeff Alford, Brian Alford, John Newton and Danny Campbell. Honorary pallbearers were the Rev. Willard L. Watson, Bill Alford Sr., Buster Watson, Thomas Ray Watson and Gene Watson.

Callaway-Alice Funeral Home