

Fairmont Heights High School  
Memorial Service

“Remembering Alumni, Faculty, Family  
and Friends”

Saturday, December 04, 2010  
At 11:00AM

Location: New Mt Nebo Baptist Church  
7501 Walker Mill Drive  
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Pastor: Rev. Robert R. Johnson, SR.

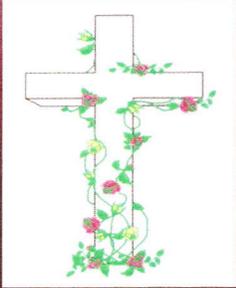
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*Fairmont Heights High School*  
60th Anniversary

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"Remember the Past - Welcome the Future"



# FHHS 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Service



## Remembering Elizabeth Smith Gordon

*“I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith, from now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day...” (2 Timothy 4:7-8)*

**Elizabeth Vivian Smith Gordon**, was born on July 24, 1933, to the late Frank and Josephine Smith. Elizabeth, affectionately known as “Sister”, was the only daughter and youngest member of the Smith family who lived in Glenarden, Maryland. Sister had five older brothers: Raymond, James, Edward, Leo, and Frank. Elizabeth V. Gordon, faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, made her transition into eternal peace in the early morning of December 10 at Prince George’s Community Hospital.

Elizabeth lived a beautiful life, a life that she dedicated to serving God, her family, and her community. During her 76 years, Elizabeth touched many, many lives as she embraced those in need and supported worthy causes. Her life is a testimony of love, compassion, dedication, and concern for others.

As a life long resident of Glenarden, her childhood was centered around her family, church, and community. She was raised in a devout Catholic home, attending the original Saint Joseph Church in Glenarden. She attended the public schools, graduating from Fairmont Heights High School in 1952. One of the highlights of her young life was playing softball for the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) on a team that her brother Raymond coached. By many accounts, “Sister was a dynamic infielder for the Top Spotters!” Her popularity gained her the title of Miss Glenarden.

On June 29, 1957, Elizabeth and Wilton Gordon were united in holy matrimony and from that union, the couple had three children: Wilton, Jr., Veronica and Stacey. Throughout their 53 years of marriage, Elizabeth was totally devoted to her family. No matter the occasion, she was always a prominent supportive figure. When her husband ran in the Penn Relays, she was right there cheering him on. When the children were involved in activities in school and the community, they could always depend on their loving mom to be in their best booster. When grandchildren arrived in the family, Elizabeth became a doting grandmother, always seeing that the grands had everything they needed. When the grandchildren came from California for holidays and vacations, Grandma spent weeks “getting ready for the gang.” She was filled with pride as she talked about graduations and other events. For the past three years, Elizabeth found all sorts of ways to “spoil”, Adrian, the youngest grand.

Elizabeth Gordon began her career as a civil servant in the early 1960’s. She started with the Government Service Administration (GSA) where she had an exemplary record for over twenty years. She then moved to work for Prince George’s County government, the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) from which she retired in 1996.

Elizabeth was deeply involved in parish life at St. Joseph's. In 1997, she was the chairperson for the 75th Anniversary Banquet. She was an active member in Our Lady of Grace Sodality; The Ladies Auxiliary of #141 of Knights of St. John International; The Concerned Ladies; The Good Samaritans; The Hospitality Ministry; The Repast Ministry; The Parish Advisory Board (PAB), and she was faithful to her duties as an Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist. More recently, Elizabeth was a member of a liaison team to keep the parish informed on the progress of the new Woodmore at Glenarden Development.

In addition to serving our Lord Jesus Christ through her parish activities, Elizabeth was serious about serving her community. For many years, she was an election judge for Glenarden and Prince George's County. She was a longtime member of The Glenarden Historical Society, the Glenarden Pioneers, and the Glenarden Seniors. This past August, the Pioneers at their 70<sup>th</sup> annual picnic presented her with The James R. Cousins Legacy Award to recognize her many years of fulfilling her civic responsibilities.

Elizabeth was committed to a healthy lifestyle and pursued her daily walking routine as a Landover Mall Walker for many years and then moved her daily walking to The Prince George's Sports and Learning Center. A few years ago, she won first place for Recreational Walk in the Maryland Senior Olympics at Towson University.

In recent years, it was common to see Elizabeth dressed in red and purple, a signature of The Red Hat Ladies. She enjoyed her social outings and this past summer was thrilled to have attended a national gathering of Red Hatters at The National Harbor Center.

Elizabeth was dedicated to her alma mater, Fairmont Heights High School, and with her usual zeal for getting things done, she worked diligently for the group. She was pivotal in planning their annual dances and was looking forward to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration to be held in October 2010.

Any organization that Elizabeth was a part of, members knew that she was always dependable, reliable and cooperative. Members also knew that she was honest and forthright in giving her opinion. When issues were drawn out, Elizabeth would be quick to let you know that "we need to move on." No foolishness was her motto; she would be quick to tell you how to do a job if there was hesitation. Her heart and mind were always focused on providing good service for a successful event.

Elizabeth was proud of her heritage as a descendant of Robert and Lizzie Hawkins. As president of the Hawkins Family Reunion Committee, Elizabeth was relentless in making sure that younger generations were aware of their roots. She was also instrumental in providing trips to plays, shopping, and other events to bring family members together, and at the same time, raise funds for their annual reunions.

One would think that with her involvement in so many activities, there would be little time for herself. To the contrary, Elizabeth had limitless energy to do what ever she wanted to do. She enjoyed her cruises and was planning for a trip to Germany next summer. Her fondness for shopping is well known among her friends, many of whom accompanied her on jaunts to Potomac Mills or the Queenstown Outlet. She loved line dancing and was quite adept with the latest steps.

Our sister Elizabeth knew God's purpose for her in this life was to love others. Elizabeth V. Gordon took her Christian responsibilities seriously as evidenced by her compassionate outreach to so many people. Elizabeth would read about a family's plight and immediately start a project on how to help. When victims of Katrina came to the area, Elizabeth collected clothes for entire families. Seemingly full of limitless energy, taking it easy or going slow was not comprehensible to her. She was always involved in doing something for someone, a family member, a friend, a church member, or a stranger. She visited the sick, took Holy Communion, transported members for medical appointments, cooked meals, furnished families with clothing, and at times, she offered financial assistance. It was a normal occurrence for Elizabeth to appear at someone's door with a bag of groceries.

Elizabeth V. Gordon, our beloved "Sister", leaves a legacy of true, unconditional love to her family and friends. She leaves to rejoice in the celebration of her beautiful life her devoted husband of 53 years, Wilton; her three loving children: Wilton, Jr.; Veronica, and Stacey; her grandchildren: Teresa R. McNair; Keith A. Gordon; Bijon W. Pannel; Paris B. Gordon; Maya J. Gordon and Adrian T. Carroll. Elizabeth is also survived by her brothers Raymond and Frank Smith, Jr., a stepsister and two stepbrothers; her son-in-law, Timothy Carroll and daughter-in-law Pamela Gordon, and her godsons Dennis and Nathan Smith who will dearly miss their "second mom." Her sisters-in-law Martha, Helen and Betty Smith will miss the bonds of their sisterly relationship. There are numerous nieces and nephews who depended on Aunt Sis for so many facets of their lives. Elizabeth leaves an infinite number of friends who will always cherish her outpouring of love and kindness. All her survivors are grateful to God for the blessing of sharing in the life of Elizabeth V. Gordon, our "Sister".

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with your entire mind, and with all your strength." (Mark 12: 30)*

**BROWN**



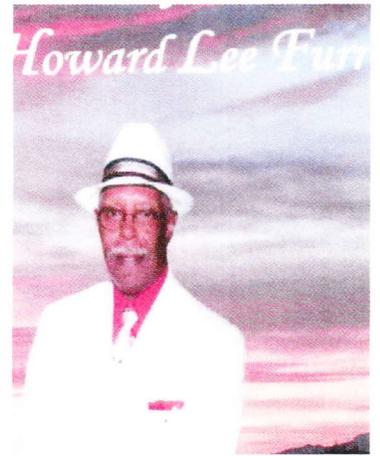
**BARBARA ANN FALWELL BROWN**



*Rita Celestine Simpkins*



**William Henry Smallwood**



*Howard Lee Furr*  
**Tyrone Pettiford, Sr.**

**ALLEN**



**JOYCE ALLEN**



*Valarie Sharpe Price*

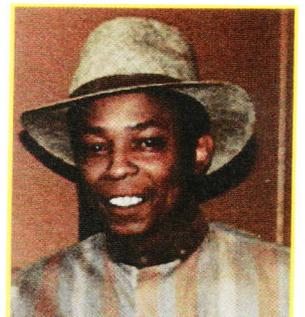


*Alonzo Steward Butts*

**LANCASTER**



**THELMA R. LANCASTER**



*Anita Smith-Parker*

**THOMPSON**



**CASSANDRA JEAN THOMPSON**

**ROBINSON**



**MARVIS V. ROBINSON**



Class of '51

William Jackson



Class of '55

Hilda Jackson Veney



Class of '57

Lawson Duckett  
William R Butler Jr.



Class of '61

Charles Wilbur Crisp



# Simon Lewis Alsop

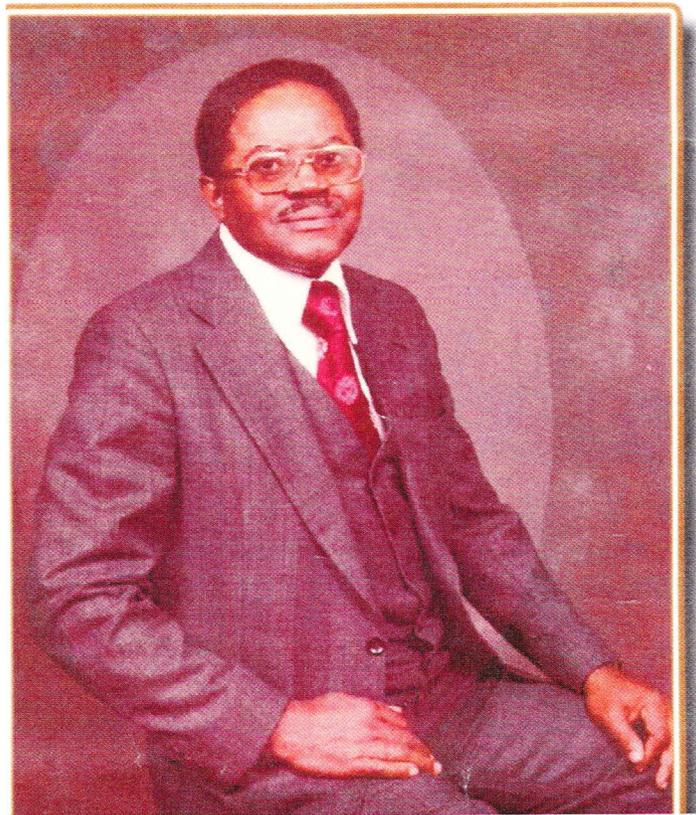
Class of '71

Janice L. Singleton Rodgers



Class of '81

Mark E. Gamble



Class of '84

Darryle Peoples Sr.



*Earl M. Robertson*

Michael J. Lynn, Sr.

Geraldine L. White  
Robert C. Harrison Jr.  
Barbara Jean Watkins Colbert  
Levi Harris Sr.



VETERANS  
Michael King '65  
David Dickerson '66  
Michael J. Lynn Sr '65



## Remembering Simon Lewis Alsop

Simon Lewis Alsop was born in King and Queen County, Virginia on July 1, 1923, to the late William Aaron and Bessie Vessels Alsop. He departed this life on June 15, 2010. "Al" as he was affectionately known, joined the Jerusalem Baptist Church in Sparta, Virginia at an early age and continued this affiliation throughout his life. After graduating from Union High School in Bowling Green, Virginia in 1942, he served three years in the United States Army as a member of Company C, 614d1 Tank Destroyer Battalion during World War II. Al graduated from Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in 1949 and pursued further study at Hampton, General Motors Institute of Technology in Flint, Michigan, Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland, University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland, George Washington and The Catholic Universities in Washington, DC.

Simon began his career in education at Manassas Regional Senior High School in Prince William County, Virginia in 1949. He later worked at Fairmont Heights and Crossland Senior High Schools in Prince George's County, Maryland until his retirement in the late seventies. His last fifteen years in education were spent in senior high school administration. He was a dedicated educator who especially enjoyed working with young people. In addition to his career in education, Al worked in the automotive industry part time as a sales and service consultant from 1940 until late in his life. He was a member of a myriad of organizations including Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion Post No. 19, National Education Association, American Vocational and Technical Education Association, American Association of School Administrators, the Maryland State and Prince George's County Education Associations, Hampton Alumni Association and many others.

Al loved his family and friends alike and was always ready to give a helping hand to others. He leaves his wife of 60+ years, Iris Hairston Alsop of Washington, DC, two children, Alonso Lewis Alsop of Glenn Dale, Maryland and Adrienne Lonise Alsop of Washington, DC, Daughter-in-law, Aleta Gladden-Alsop of Washington, DC, one sister, Bessie Alsop Stanback, PhD. of Portsmouth, Virginia, one aunt, Laura Thomas of Bowling Green, Virginia, five sisters-in-law, Etta Alsop, Adelle Alsop, Myrtle Alsop, Betty Berry and Louise Hairston, two brother-in-law, Willard Stanback and Charles Berry, two step-brothers, Randolph White and Rev. Dr. Andrew White, one step-sister, Catherine Ellis Ross, four step-sisters-in-law, Elizabeth White, Roberta White, Grace White and Minnie Johnson, several cousins, nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, James, Robert and Raymond also and a number of other relatives.

Fairmont Heights High School  
Alumni Association  
2010 Memorial Service

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Presentation of The Colors  | Fairmont Heights High School JrROTC   |
| Opening Hymn  | Messengers of Zion Youth Choir<br>New Mt. Nebo Baptist Church   |
| Introduction of the Worship Leader                                      | Thelma Spriggs Battle, '51<br>Chairperson   |
| Worship Leader  | Ricky Black, '63  |
| Scriptures- Old Testament..Eccles. 3:1-4<br>- New Testament...Acts 10:4 | Eleanor Traynham, '53   |
| Prayer  | Deacon Bernard Matthews, '57  |
| The Occasion  | Denise Haskins-Parker, '71  |
| Musical Selection   | Messengers of Zion Youth Choir<br>New Mt. Nebo Baptist Church   |
| Memorial Tributes<br>Expressions of Remembrance and Thanksgiving        | Family and Friends  |
| Introduction of Guest Minister  | Rev. Robert R. Johnson Sr., '57<br>New Mt. Nebo Baptist Church  |
| Musical Selection<br>Musical Selection                                  | Willie Robinson<br>Choir<br>Royal Oaks Pentecostal Church   |
| Memorial Message  | Rev. Joseph A. Robinson, '55<br>Royal Oaks Pentecostal Church   |
| Candlelight Ceremony<br>Faculty<br>Staff<br>Alumni<br>Veterans          | Denise Haskins-Parker<br>Thelma Boyd-Nash, Faculty<br>Anna Crutchfield, Staff<br>Mary Ann Black, '66<br>James Staggs, '66 |
| Musical Selection   | Willie Robinson   |
| Remarks/Presentations   | John Williams<br>President, FHHS Alumni Association   |
| Benediction   | Rev. Robert R. Johnson Sr.<br>New Mt. Nebo Baptist Church   |
| Alma Mater  | Led by Eleanor Traynham   |

## Alma Mater

It's Fairmont Heights High School  
Our Alma Mater fair  
It's sunlight and star shine  
We see thee in all thy glory.  
The gray and maroon, thy colors glorious,  
Ever we praise and hold them  
High to the breeze as a symbol  
Of our unfailing allegiance,  
This anthem Fairmont Heights your pledge  
Of trust will be  
That thy sons and daughters shall keep faith  
With thee forever.

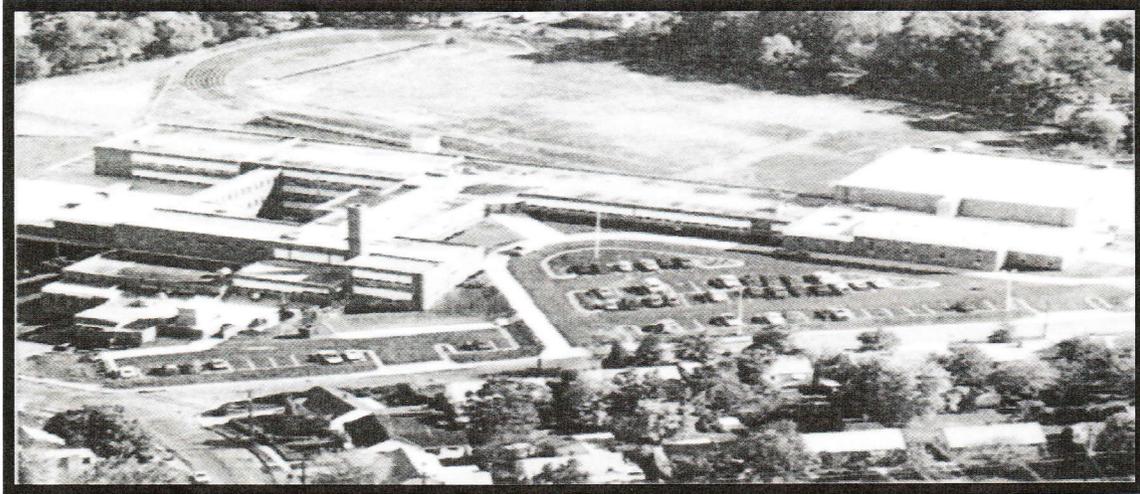
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## Acknowledgements

### Memorial Committee

|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chairperson                 | Thelma Spriggs Battle '51      |
| Member                      | Delores Cole Brown '54         |
| Member                      | Rev. Robert Johnson Sr. '57    |
| Member and Program Designer | Michael Marshall '63           |
| Member and President, FHHSA | John Williams, Faculty '62-'92 |
| Member                      | Ricky Black '63                |

The Memorial Committee would like to give special thanks to Reverend Robert R. Johnson Sr., Reverend Joseph A. Robinson, The Messengers of Zion Youth Choir, Fairmont Heights High School ROTC, The Gordon Family, The Alsop Family, Special Guest and others, who helped make this Memorial Service a Success.



*Old hornets never die!*



**Homecoming**

Fairmont Heights High School  
Saturday, October 25, 2014 at 2:00 pm

Fairmont Heights

Football vs. Stuyvesant High School

Saturday, October 25, 2014

**60th Anniversary**



Delivering On The Dream!



*They just buzz away.*

