

**Daisy Marianné Anderson Alston** ('36) of Chesapeake WV passed away on June 25, 2020, one month before her 106th birthday.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Cheatham Alston ('32).

She is survived by her daughter Marian Alston ('70) and son-in law W. I. Hairston; her son Cheatham Alston Jr.; her grandson Bill Hairston; and her cousins Francisco Beale Newman ('53) and Thelma Moats Newman ('53).



Born in Covington, Va., she came to West Virginia in 1932 from Westinghouse High School in Pittsburgh, Pa. to attend West Virginia State College (now University). At State, she studied French, sang in the A Cappella Choir, lettered in basketball, and was a class leader. A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for 87 years, she was initiated into Nu Chapter in the spring of 1933 and was Basileus in her senior year.

After graduating magna cum laude in 1936, she pursued graduate studies in French at Atlanta University before returning to Pittsburgh to become a social worker. After marriage in 1939, she returned to West Virginia, received a graduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and began teaching in Kanawha County. Later, she completed graduate studies in school administration at Marshall University and West Virginia University.

A trailblazer in education, she was the last surviving Black teacher of those chosen, in 1955, to begin the integration of public schools in West Virginia after the Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954. As a result, she became the first Black teacher at Fruth School in Charleston West Virginia.

Later, she was the last principal at Institute Elementary, WVSC's premier demonstration school for teaching. In 1983, she was named Teacher of the Year for Kanawha County Schools. In 1985, she received the Distinguished Service and Dedication to Education Award from West Virginia State College. In 2002, she was presented with the WVSU Presidential Award by Dr. Hazo Carter.

For over 60 years, she returned to WVSU for the celebration of Homecoming, the Alumni Dinner, and the AKA Luncheon. In 2016, she celebrated the 80th anniversary of her graduation from WVSU.



Daisy Anderson Alston ('36) attending WVSU Homecomings (Middle Pic) Celebrating her 80th Alumni Class Reunion