

Alton Black Alumni Association

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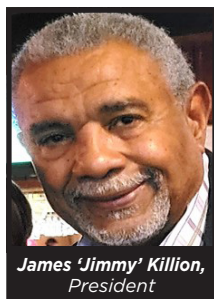
Marquato (Spann) Rattler

Bonnie (McLemore) Fox

Mission Statement

To reunite colleagues who attended Alton area schools and to utilize their life and career experiences to lead, strengthen, and mobilize the Alton community to prepare our youth for productive adulthood.

Message from the President



James 'Jimmy' Killion,
President

Greetings, fellow alumni and friends!

This has been an eventful year for our community and the city of Alton. Several months of exciting and fun events have led to a crescendo of expectation. We plan to build on the momentum and take things to the next level.

We are busy finalizing arrangements for our 2022 ALTON BLACK ALUMNI All Classes' Reunion. It is hard to believe that it has been four years since our last reunion weekend in 2018. Due to the Covid pandemic, we canceled the 2020 event.

There is growing interest and excitement as we look forward to a big homecoming/reunion extravaganza. "Who's coming from out-of-town?" "Which class will have the biggest turnout?" "Will Divine 9 reps be in the house?" You do not want to miss it! This edition provides more information and details for your planning purposes.

Alumni Highlights

Our Alumni keep soaring and inspiring!

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Marcus Harrison (89) and Mr. James Harrison Killion III (62) upon receiving the Alton High School Distinguished Alumni Award. Their awards now occupy a space on the Wall of Fame! The Distinguished Alumni Award was introduced in 2014 and was designed to celebrate outstanding citizens who have contributed to their community.

More kudos continue as we celebrate the YWCA 2022 Women of Distinction honorees. Ms. Vernetta Caffey, Ms. Staci Herron (85), Ms. Latasha Leflor-Porter (89) and Ms. Faye Taylor.

Congratulations to these honorees and thanks to their service to the Alton Community!

Leo C. Cox Memorial Scholarship

The Leo C. Cox Memorial Scholarship is a renewable scholarship that is awarded to a deserving Alton High Senior who plans to pursue a degree at a 2- or 4- year post high school institution of learning.

Named after charter member Leo C. Cox (1960), Leo served as a dedicated and devoted board member and community leader.

In 2016, our very first scholarship winner was given to a deserving Alton High School Senior. Since then, we have awarded \$15,000 in scholarship monies.

Whether it is donations or attending our events, everything the Alton Black Alumni Association does impacts our scholarship program. All donations have a profound impact.

Donations received throughout the year have a lasting impact on students. There's no perfect time to give!

Upcoming Events ★ What's Going on Around A-Town

- August 20** **OWCA Community Cookout at the Park**
1 Henry St. Alton, IL. 62002
6:00pm - 9:00pm
- August 21** **Boyz II Men Concert**
Liberty Bank Amphitheater | Alton, IL. 62002
- August 27** **Alton Food Truck Festival**
Liberty Bank Amphitheater | 1 Riverfront Dr., Alton, IL.
4:00pm - 8:00pm
- Sept 2-4** **'Reunited' Reunion (Labor Day Weekend)**
A "Reunited" Alumni Weekend hosted by
Friends of the 60s - Alton Black Alumni Association
All classes/alumni welcome
- Sept 3** **Annual Leo Cox Golf Tournament - hosted by**
Friends of the 60s - Alton Black Alumni Association
All are welcome to join in on the fun
- Sept 10** **Mud Volleyball Tourney @ Alton Expo**
Riverfront Park, Alton, IL.
Sat, 9/10 - Mon. 9/12
- Sept 17-18** **Mississippi Earth-tones Festival**
300 E. Broadway, Alton, IL.
9/17 - 5:00pm | 9/18 - 3:00pm
- October 1-2** **Vintage Voices**
Alton National Cemetery
- October 8-9** **Vintage Voices**
Alton National Cemetery

Reunion
Flyer on
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Upcoming Events ★ What's Going on Surrounding A-Town:

- August 6** **The Black Ball Masquerade Edition**
Marriott St. Louis Airport | 10700 Pear Tree Ln. St. Louis, MO
Saturday | 6:00 - 10:00pm
- August 13** **ForTheCultureSTL Presents: The Black Owned Farm Tour**
3714 Penrose St St. Louis, MO
Saturday | 10:00pm
- August 14** **ForTheCultureSTL Presents: The Culture Kickback Fest**
The Family Arena- 2002 Arena Parkway St. Charles, MO.
Sunday | 6:00pm
- August 19-20** **Florissant Food Truck Nights**
50 Rue St. Francois Florissant, MO.
Sat, 9/10 - Mon. 9/12
- August 20** **8th Annual Saint LAAA FaB**
Taste of North St. Louis | 2205 St Louis Ave. St. Louis, MO
Saturday | 1:00 - 7:00pm
- August 20** **8th Annual Saint Louis African American Artifacts**
Crown Square Apartments in Old North St. Louis
2323 N 14th St., St. Louis, MO
Saturday | 1:00 - 7:00pm

Events
continued
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TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW - EVENTBRITE

Visit our website for reunion updates and reflections: www.altonblackalumni.org

Visit & join our Facebook Group Page

Continued Upcoming Events ★ What's Going on Surrounding A-Town:

- August 21** **Exposing The SLAVE Theology of The BLACK CHURCH**
EyeSeeMe African American Children's Bookstore
6951 Olive Blvd, University City, MO
Sunday | 6:00 - 9:00am
- August 27** **Black & Gold StL Awards Meet & Greet**
2712 Cherokee St. St. Louis, MO
- August 27** **2nd Annual Jeep & Family Day**
The Gateway Arch, Gateway Arch | St. Louis, MO
Saturday | 11:00am - 2:00pm
- Sept 9-11** **Taste of Black STL 2022**
East Gate Plaza Shopping Center | East Alton, IL. 62024
Friday, Sept 9 - Sunday, Sept 11
- Sept 10** **FamFun3K**
Lincoln Park | 606 S 15th St. East St Louis, IL
Saturday | 9:30 - 11:30am
- Sept 10** **Kicks on 66 Ultra Car Show & Cruise**
American Legion Post 199 | Edwardsville, IL
Saturday | 11:00am - 2:00pm
- Sept 24** **Unity Festival and Market (UFAM)**
Fairground Park, Natural Bridge Avenue &, Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO.
Saturday | 1:00 - 7:00pm
- Sept 24** **Kevin Hart**
Enterprise Center - 1401 Clark Ave. ,St. Louis, MO.
Saturday | 7:00pm
- October 15** **V4A ANNUAL AFRICAN DINNER**
315 Howdershell Rd. Florissant, MO
Saturday | 4:00 - 8:00pm

Hometown Hero: James Killion Source: The RiverBender (5/31/22)

James Killion Day Honors Local Veterans

ALTON - The first Annual James Killion Day at Killion Park on Saturday was an overwhelming success, with a capacity crowd and remembrance of the legendary Alton man and also other past and present veterans on Memorial Day weekend.

The City of Alton Mayor, David Goins, presented a memorable proclamation to the members of the Killion Family. Local veterans shared their service stories and DJ Love was the main entertainment of the day. Doves were released in reverence of veterans who have died. Also, event attendees enjoyed food, and drinks and took home a commemorative frisbee, as well as had the opportunity to win tickets to a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game. There were birthday cakes and cookies in Killion's memory. James' immense contributions to the Alton region were recognized.

James' son, Jim Killion, III., spoke at the event and said Killion Park has strong memories for his family and was a special place for his father. Jim Killion, III. acknowledged Abe Lee Barham for his volunteer efforts in getting the park named in his father's honor. He also recognized James Killion Day committee members Crystal Love, Sheila Goins, and alderwoman Rosetta Brown for their efforts with Barham for the event.

Barham said Mr. Killion's legacy was that he was "a bridge builder." "He will always be remembered in Alton history for his efforts," Barham said.



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Mr. James Killion, Jr.'s WWII Letters Donated to National WWII Museum

On June 24, 2022, members of the Killion family attended a special program highlighting wartime correspondence from James Killion, Jr. While serving in the US Army, Killion wrote his parents in Alton, Illinois, about life in a segregated Army, about loneliness and about his hopes and dreams for postwar happiness with his wife and baby son, James Killion, III. Senior Curator and Director for Curatorial Affairs Kimberly Guise discussed the collection and Killion's service with James Killion, III and his family as the material was presented to The National WWII Museum's archives.



Expressions of America - 2022 Veteran's Day Exhibit



Staff Stg. James Killion Jr.
US Army Quartermaster Corps

Staff Sergeant James Killion, Jr will be featured in the National WWII Museum's upcoming Veteran's Day (11/11/22) Exhibit - **"Expressions of America"**

Staff Sergeant Killion served for six years in the US Army. In the rain and mud of France, he dreamed of reuniting with his wife and meeting his infant son—and he wrote letters to tell them so, as well as to ask his mother for prayers. His wartime letters are so vibrant, so present, that one can almost hear his voice telling his mother or his brother to "take it easy." What he desired most was simply for the war to be over and to return home, "to eat out of a plate, flush a toilet, sit or jump to music of a radio." He wanted to lead a normal life with his family.

He went on to do those ordinary things—and also the extraordinary. He was a soldier, a son, a brother, a husband, a father of four, a grandfather, an active church member and choir director, a board member, a steel worker, a union representative, a civic leader, and a mentor. Organized, preserved, and published into a book by his son, Killion's letters were presented by his family to the Museum in a special event, A Black Soldier's Letters Home, on June 24, 2022. He is one of the many heroes you will come to know through his own words in Expressions of America.

Learn more, view the teaser trailer: [ExpressionsOfAmerica.org](https://www.ExpressionsOfAmerica.org). (Note: within trailer, click on S/Sgt Killion's image)

Profile for Expressions of America: <https://www.ExpressionsOfAmerica.org/staff-sgt-james-killion-jr/>

Source: **WWII - THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM** - New Orleans, LA

Support Your Organization

This is a **REMINDER** that we need your help through donations to carry out the Mission of this organization. It is through your generous donations during our Donor Campaign that we help deserving graduates with college tuition through renewable scholarships. Additionally, we offer gift cards at Christmas to underprivileged students in the Alton School District and give financial support to other organizations in the community.

Please help us so that we can help others.

Donations Options: Check, PayPal or Cash App (\$FOSAB)

Remit checks to: FOS/ABAA Donor Campaign
P.O. Box 1033, Alton, IL 62002

FOS/Alton Black Alumni Association is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization under IRS section 170(b)(2)(iii) for both federal and state tax purposes. Our federal tax identification number is 81-1244704.

Alton Black Alumni Reunion

Labor Day Weekend – September 2-3, 2022

All Classes Welcome!!

“It’s a Reunion / Homecoming Affair – Let’s Get Our Party On”

<p>MEET & GREET - \$30 FRIDAY, September 2...7pm - til Julia’s Banquet Center East Alton, IL</p>	<p>GOLF TOURNAMENT - \$40 SATURDAY, September 3 The ‘ROCK’ Rock Springs GC Alton, IL</p>	<p>‘REUNITED’ SOIREE - \$65 SATURDAY, September 3...6:30pm – til Best Western Premier Ballroom Alton, IL</p>
<p>DJ – BiggBee Comedienne – Gwynn Factor Hors d’oeuvres Games...Prizes Much more...</p>	<p>Registration: 7:30 am Tee Off: 8:30am 9 Holes of Play Cash Prizes Lunch Provided</p>	<p>Dinner/Dance Live Entertainment featuring: All Purpose Band, Comedienne - Gwynn Factor DJ - Donte</p>

THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!! - Flashback Memories - Past Reunions!



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It’s about that time, the countdown is on to the **ALL CLASSES REUNION** that’s being held over Labor Day weekend. Its been four years since we have seen one another so there’s sure to be lots of hugs, laughter, and shared memories. So, pack your bags and set your clocks because you won’t want to miss a minute of this fun filled weekend - Friday, September 2nd and Saturday, September 3rd.

It starts on Friday with a 6 pm Meet and Greet at Julia’s Banquet Center located at 101 Eastgate Plaza in East Alton, IL. Ticket cost for the evening is just \$30. The attire for the evening is black and white. There will be appetizers and dancing and an added attraction is 1984 graduate/comedian, Gwynn (Rippley) Roberson will be providing plenty of laughs.

Saturday morning, all you golfers and would be golfers will tee-off at 7:30 am at Rocksprings Golf Course. There’s sure to be lots of talking ‘smack’ and maybe you could be winner and walk away with some money for longest drive or the mighty hole-in-one. The event cost is \$40.

Last, but not least is the Saturday Evening Soiree. This gala event is being held at the Best Western Premier (formerly Holiday Inn) and it starts with cocktails at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm. Gwynn Rippley will be on stage again to get you laughing AND we are having our own rendition of Dancing With the Stars where your classmates will be shaking a tail feather (that’s dancing for you youngsters). DJ Dante’ will provide music as will The All Purpose Band.

As always, checkout our website at <http://www.AltonBlackAlumni.org> and download the Registration form and get your money in so that you won’t miss out.

Old school would say “see you at the Function at the Junction” new school would say “don’t meet me there, beat me there”.