



Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr.

June 30, 1932 - October 18, 2020

REMEMBERING

CLARKE ALSTON EGERTON, JR.

ACCOMPLISHED MUSICIAN ICON

It was during Clarke Egerton, Jr.'s tenure as a student in the Durham city schools and North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University) that he enhanced his musical talent which led to an array of opportunities in the music arena.

At John Hawkins High (Warrenton, NC), was the beginning of his teaching career in 1955. Other experiences followed at Lincoln High (Chapel Hill, NC), Whitted Jr. High and Hillside High (Durham, NC). Egerton was Director of Bands at Hillside High School for 30 years. During the period at Hillside, the Marching Band received many honors and awards inclusive of certificates of appreciation from Presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Regan. His concert and symphonic bands received many 'Superior' ratings (the highest) at competitions. Egerton was the first African-American to be inducted into the American School Band Directors Association (ASBDA). Throughout his successful years as a band director, his other professional music experiences include Director of the Durham Community Band, Clinician/Director for the Winston-Salem All County Band, as well as, a performer/back up musician with The Four Tops, Sam Cooke, Ike & Tina Turner, Joe Tex and the Temptations.

Clarke Egerton, Jr. is survived by his loving wife, Johnsie, son Clarke A. Egerton, III (Terri) and granddaughter Annisianna.

Egerton's loving, caring and professional spirit will forever be remembered. It definitely is indisputable that Clarke Egerton, Jr. left an indelible mark on our community. For family members, a private service will be held. At a later time, a public celebration for family, friends and students shall be announced.

Arrangements are under the care of Scarborough & Hargett Celebration of Life Center,

Inc. We are so honored to pay tribute and celebrate Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr's accomplishments at local, state and national levels respectively.

Tribute Wall

KR

“ Clarke was my marching band instructor at Hillside High School from 1975 through 1979. He was exceptional and set high expectations for the band and its members, so we always put on an exceptional show wherever we went. He had us write our own music for the latest hits on the radio so we were always fresh and stood out from other unhip bands that played "carnival" music. We also learned a lot of cool dance moves that really set us apart. So many fond memories, going to the Mardi Gras, Washington DC Cherry Blossom Festival, and of course, many, many Hillside games. He lives on in my heart.

Ken Rohla - November 11, 2025 at 01:42 AM



“ Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr.

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM

SB

“ I met Clarke about 10 years back, in the gym. We always talked about music, and he used to send me emails "If You Like Jazz . . ."

He was an amazing man.

Steve Bocckino
Durham, NC

Steve Bocckino - December 10, 2021 at 12:33 PM

LL

“ Lori Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr.



Lori Lawrence - November 06, 2020 at 10:09 PM

AR

“ Archie & Minnie Rahmaan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr.



Archie & Minnie Rahmaan - October 29, 2020 at 01:11 PM

JJ

“ Sending our condolences to the Clark Edgerton family. I remember being a majorette and John playing the trombone in the Lincoln High School marching band. Thanks to Mr. Edgerton’s leadership, we had a very successful and memorable experience being in the band. He lead us to heights In band competition and participating in parades that will always be cherish ! Rest In Peace Mr. Edgerton.
John and Vernelle Jones



John and Vernelle Jones - October 29, 2020 at 12:13 PM

AB

“ Andrea Bryant lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr.



Andrea Bryant - October 28, 2020 at 04:38 PM

AB

Mr. Egerton,
There are so Many Great words to describe this Wonderful Man, I saw Awesome, Truly a Humble Man, He will be Truly Missed, My Deepest Condolences to The Egerton Family, May GOD Keep His arms around You All, GOD BLESS & LOVE YOU ALL.
Plunkie

Andrea Bryant - October 28, 2020 at 04:43 PM

GO

“ My sincere condolences to the Egerton family. I was so honored to have been one of the many students Mr. Egerton taught over the years. I was also honored to have been a part of the concert, symphonic and Marching bands.

His legacy will live on forever!

Love,
Glenda McAllister Ochman, Hillside High School Class of 1981


Glenda McAllister Ochman - October 27, 2020 at 11:13 AM

GO

“ *Glenda McAllister Ochman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr.*



Glenda McAllister Ochman - October 27, 2020 at 11:10 AM

 Machella Chavis

“ *My deepest sympathy to y'all! He was a great teacher and man! He was THE HHS Band Director. He taught me to play to flute during the summer before I went to Jr High School and would become his pupil once again when coming to HHS in the 10th grade. I played bassoon in the symphonic band and flute in the marching band. He is LEGENDARY! Machella Chavis-HHS Class of 1976*

Machella Chavis - October 26, 2020 at 11:33 AM



“ *TO THE EGERTON FAMILY*

I don't have the words to express how sorry I am about the loss of my friend, your husband, and father. Mr. Egerton, or "Governor", as referred to by the members of the JohnnyWhite and The Crusaders Orchestra was a loyal and faithful member of our organization. I never had to worry about him because he was always present and doing his part to make our band one of the best to ever perform in the City of Durham, North Carolina.

He taught two of my children and his memory will forever be in our family. May God grant you peace and comfort during this time, and please let me know if I can do anything to help.

*Johnny White
Johnny White & The Elite Band*

Johnny White - October 26, 2020 at 10:24 AM

MG

“ *Mr. EGERTON taught five out of six of Gunn children. I was a member of the Whitted Jr. Hi and Hillside Hi Concert Bands. Each year the Bands would tape a TV show in Raleigh, "Concert in Brass. After we finished taping, Mr Edgerton will let us stay for the "Teenage Frolic" Dance show hosted by JD Lewis.*
Monika

Monika be Gunn-Holloway - October 25, 2020 at 06:22 PM

LR

“ *Sending my condolences and prayers to the family of Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr. May your memories comfort you in the day to come. We celebrate his life . Lisa Reid and the Reid family.*



Lisa Reid - October 25, 2020 at 12:08 AM

AH

“ *To The Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr. Family (Mrs. Johnsie Egerton, Mr. Clark A. Egerton, III, (Terri) and Miss Annisianna Egerton)*

We were very sorry to hear of Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr.'s passing. I met Clark when I moved to Durham in 1954 and I found him to be a man of impeccable character who treated everyone that he met with love and respect. I remember his Mother, Mrs. Egerton was the same way. She helped Mrs. Carrie G. Hargrove (Mama Carrie) raise me at W. D. Hill Recreation Center. I followed Clarke's illustrious music career, but I was blessed to be able to work three summers at Hillside swimming pool under Clarke's supervision as the bath house attendant. I would dress like Life guards, but here was one problem, I could not swim. We had two brothers Pete and Angier that worked along the side of Clarke as Life Guards. I decided that I wanted to learn how to swim. I had witnessed the two brothers teaching others how to swim, and they would show you how to come out of 10 feet of water two times, and if you did not follow their instructions, they would pull you out after you drank a little water. You do not have to guess who I got to teach me how to swim. Clarke would not make me do anything that I did not want to do. We had a lot of fun, but I did not learn how to swim.

He would also let me drive his 88 Oldsmobile. When I think of the influence and help that I got from this great man and also the thousands and thousands of other students that have reaped the benefit from his tutelage, we thank God for sending him our way. Warrenton, NC., Durham, NC, and the state will never be the same since he passed our way. You will be missed, but not forgotten.

We love you and we will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers.

The Albert and Dorothy Huey Family

Albert Huey - October 24, 2020 at 03:40 PM

TM

“ *My condolences to the family during your time of loss.*

He was such an inspiration and integral part of my life for six years. My junior and high school years were tolerable by his existence in my life. I cannot imagine what my life would have been like without the influence of his tutelage and music. It was my honor to call him an important part of my life and in my heart he will always live.

May you find solace in family, friends, and all the memories you and others have.

*Sincerely,
Tracey McCorkle Harris*

Tracey M.Harris - October 24, 2020 at 02:16 PM

RJ

“ *On behalf of the McAllister family, we extend our sincere condolences to the Egerton family. Mr. Egerton was an outstanding band director and teacher. He encouraged myself and many others to do exceedingly above and beyond what we ever dreamed that we could do. I was proud to be a member of the Hillside Marching Hornets (1975 - 1978). And was truly honored to carry on the legacy of being a Drum Major during the 1977 - 1978 school year. Rest In Power Mr. E. Band Attend!*

Raymond McAllister, Jr - October 23, 2020 at 05:26 PM

TS

On behalf of the Durham Community Concert Band we would like to send our condolences to the Egerton family. We enjoyed Clarke's professionalism, musicianship and loyalty to the band. I played under Clarke and followed his leadership when he retired. Thomas B. Shaffer.

Thomas B Shaffer - October 24, 2020 at 12:10 AM

LM

*On behalf of the McRae family, we extend our condolences to the Egerton family. Proud Hornet and member from the Class of 1977.
Leon McRae*

Leon McRae - October 27, 2020 at 01:18 PM

RJ

“ *Raymond McAllister, Jr lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr.*



Raymond McAllister, Jr - October 23, 2020 at 05:17 PM

AW

“ *Love you your cousin Annie Mae White*



Annie White - October 23, 2020 at 12:53 PM

DB

“ *Deborah Burroughs lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr.*



Deborah Burroughs - October 23, 2020 at 08:43 AM

VU

“ *My condolences to the Egerton family and friends during your time of grief. I will miss Mr. Egerton's wisdom and smiles.*
Vicki Umstead
Durham Musicians Reunited, Inc.

Vicki Umstead - October 23, 2020 at 07:44 AM

WJ

“ *You all have my sympathy during this time. I learned a lot about loving Mom, Pops, "Girl Friend" Mrs Egerton, children and God. I met Mr. Egerton at 13. Mr Egerton had a positive effect on the way I lived. I thank you all for sharing him with me. B C Jr.*

William Cross Jr - October 23, 2020 at 01:03 AM

LM

“ *Lisa Fleming Morris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr.*



Lisa Fleming Morris - October 22, 2020 at 07:48 PM

WG

“ *Whitney Barnes Green lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr.*



Whitney Barnes Green - October 22, 2020 at 05:57 PM

TH

“ *Timothy D. Holland lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr.*



Timothy D. Holland - October 22, 2020 at 03:45 PM

JH

“ *Jackie Holloway-Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clarke Alston Egerton, Jr.*



jackie Holloway-Johnson - October 22, 2020 at 03:22 PM

“ It is impossible to utter the words 'Hillside Band' without thinking of the vast accomplishments of Clarke A. Egerton, Jr. During my own years as Hillside High Band director, it was not unusual to field 2 - 3 telephone/email performance requests each and every week. This was a tribute to the unparalleled respect and visibility that Mr. Egerton built during his tenure as director.

I will always cherish his mentorship and the trail he blazed for band directors in NC and beyond. In speaking of Mr. Egerton's true legacy, I always point to the generations of leaders that he developed and guided, and the manner in which he brought in students from all walks of life and taught them about pride, excellence, and respect. Rest in power, Maestro!

Xavier L. Cason

Xavier Cason - October 22, 2020 at 12:53 PM

“ *Hillside Performing Arts Tribute
In Memory of Mr. Clarke A. Egerton, Jr.
The Legend Behind the Music*



It was in 1980 as a freshman at North Carolina Central University when I first met the Legendary Clarke Egerton, Jr. I was walking down Lawson Street and heard the sounds of music. A distinguished man of bold grace and character stood watch over young minds wanting to change the world through music. I was mesmerized and amazed at the musicianship and discipline of those young energetic students. I saw the excitement of the school and community when the band would make its way down Fayetteville Street for one of the many parades. I had never witnessed anything like it. It was magical. Who was this Man behind the Music? I was always reminded that is Mr. Egerton, The Legend behind the Music. Little did I know, as Drama Director, I would get to witness the magic of Mr. Egerton for the next 10 years as his colleague at Hillside.

As a young educator, I was blessed to watch Mr. Egerton and Mrs. Timberlake mold and nurture students in our department. Hillside Performing Arts was grounded in talent, skills and an unwavering love for The Arts. Mr. Egerton was respected and received respect and professional notoriety from all walks of life. He taught our department about integrity, fairness, citizenship and teamwork. He showed us how to bring the community together and build lasting relationships. He trained thousands of students to be life learners' one musical note at a time. Our Performing Arts Department at Hillside is indebted to the legacy of Mr. Clarke Egerton, Jr. We have lost a former colleague, a mentor, a friend....We have lost a Legend. Hillside High School Performing Arts Salutes "The Legend Behind The Music" Mr. Clarke A. Egerton, Jr. Rest In Music!

Submitted by Mr. Wendell Tabb, Drama Director on behalf of the Hillside High School Performing Arts Department. (Cybil Haskins, Band; Tiffany Agerston, Chorus; Valencia Lipscomb, Dance, Wendell Tabb, Drama)

Mr. Wendell Tabb - October 22, 2020 at 11:45 AM

MT

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Mr. Wendell Tabb - October 22, 2020 at 11:39 AM

JN

“ *Joy Shields Norris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Clarke
Alston Egerton, Jr.*



Joy Shields Norris - October 22, 2020 at 10:21 AM

WE

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and deepest sympathy for the family. Praying for strength*

Weldon and Alma Egerton



Weldon Egerton - October 22, 2020 at 09:40 AM

FB

“ *He was my friend, who have impacted my life for over 60 years.*

Stoney Brown

Frederick S. Brown - October 22, 2020 at 09:14 AM

VE

“ *Now when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke...Genesis 50:4*



Valechia Egerton-Stegall - October 22, 2020 at 08:47 AM

ED

“ *Harriette Taylor Davis and I enjoyed serving on the Hillside faculty with Mr. Egerton. He was a wonderful colleague. Students loved him and would march through rain, heat, and very long parades to perform in the Hillside band under the direction of Mr. Egerton.*

Eddie Davis

Eddie Davis - October 22, 2020 at 06:48 AM

BS

“ *Condolences to the Egerton family. Mr. Egerton was a phenomenal teacher and an even better man. He encouraged me and many others to go beyond where we thought we could go. Rest In Peace Mr. E.
Band Attend!*

Barry Stanback - October 22, 2020 at 01:07 AM

SW

“ My condolences to the Egerton family. May God comfort you and bring you peace. Rest In Power Mr. Egerton. Love Sharon White

Sharon White - October 21, 2020 at 08:35 PM

DM

“ My condolences to the family. He taught me how to play the trombone in 1963. We reconnected several years ago. He had planned to locate the band pictures. Will miss phone conversations.

Dennis Mathews

Denis Mathews - October 21, 2020 at 07:07 PM



TH

“ Our hearts are saden today to lose such a great Teacher, Neighbor and Role Model to all who knew him especially the Cecil Street Community. To Mrs Egerton, Clark, Terri and Family we pray for your strength at a time of grief and that you will look back all the accomplishments that a Leader of all Leaders brought to the Community and the City Of Durham. There will NEVER be another Mr. Egerton and he will truly be missed. From Tammie Harris and Family. speaking on behalf of the late Melvin and Hattie Willis may they rest in peace. Your Journeys will not be forgotten. Mr. Egerton you are with them now. Cecil Street will always REMEMBER.

Tammie Harris - October 21, 2020 at 06:20 PM



ME

“ My sincere condolence s go out to the Egerton family.

Margaret E Egerton - October 21, 2020 at 05:49 PM



OB

FROM CLASS OF 1975, MY FAMILY AND I SEND OUR HEART FELT CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS TO HIS FAMILY, RIH MR. EGERTON.....

OPHELIA BASS BELL - October 21, 2020 at 06:07 PM

JG

“ It is with great sorrow to hear of the loss of our Former neighbor. Mr. Egerton taught several members of my family, all of whom greatly admired him. We will all miss him. Joyce Graham and family.

Joyce Graham - October 21, 2020 at 05:45 PM

VH

“ I am a product musician of Clarke Egerton, and glad about it. He helped to shape me to the level of music professionalism, and the positive outlook I have towards a career I have enjoyed over the years. I've had the esteemed pleasure to have him as a teacher at Hillside, and a mentor. He made many trips in the Vista Cruiser station wagon transporting students for parents to and from practices and engagements. He will be forever in my thoughts. My prayers go out to his family in this time of sorrow.

Valeria Hannah-Murphy - October 21, 2020 at 03:12 PM

VH

Valeria Hannah-Murphy, Hillside High School Class of 1970

Valeria Hannah-Murphy - October 21, 2020 at 03:17 PM



My heart is sad,in the passing of Mr.Edgerton, my prayers go out to the family.

Shirley Abdullah - October 22, 2020 at 09:03 AM

CJ

“ Mrs. Egerton and Clark Jr. and your entire family. My heart was saddened to hear news of my beloved Band Directors transition from this place, I began to rejoice for him because he has finished his course and we that are left behind must complete ours. I think about his calm spirit while working with me as I learned to play the Saxophone, and I became a Flag Girl. Clark Jr. thank you for sharing your father with countless numbers of needy students over the years that loved his attention also. I can visualize the day he left this place, a band of Angels welcoming him home. Egerton family may God continue to bless and keep you and make his face to shine upon you this day and forever more. With Love Christa-Umstead Johnson HHS 1977

Christa Umstead Johnson - October 21, 2020 at 01:58 PM

DB

I first met Mr. Egerton at Hillside Park when I was approximately 4 years of age. At that time, during the summer he was the director of Hillside pool. It was there that I learned to swim under his direction, a skill which I still enjoy. I can say that he helped me to develop into the mature person I am today. He was truly a role model.

When he was employed by the Durham School System as band director, I would be so proud to watch his students and him as they performed with dignity in the Hillside and NCCU Homecoming Parades

on Fayetteville Street and the Christmas Parade on Main Street when "the real" downtown Durham existed.

Mr. Egerton was the epitome of excellence as teacher/band director in the schools and as pool director/ lifeguard and swimming instructor at Hillside Park. As children (we) who grew up on Dunstan Street, participated in many water pageants as Hillside pool closed for the summer. As teacher and band director of the marching and symphonic bands, his students marched and played with precision.

He has earned his wings. My prayers and condolences are with the family. God will sustain you through this difficult time. Hold on to your faith. God is able to comfort you.

Rev. Dr. Deborah Long Burroughs

Deborah Burroughs - October 23, 2020 at 08:41 AM

 Linda Steward

My sincere condolences on your loss. I pray the family finds comfort on the memories and love of others and our prayers.

Linda Steward - November 12, 2020 at 01:20 PM