



Mrs. Sanya Alexander Adams

September 19, 1966 - September 30, 2018

On September 19, 1966, our world was made better by the birth of Sanya Evete Alexander. She was born to Redditt and Ida and remained their only child. But sometimes one is enough! Sanya was a high energy baby and was the toddler that no one could really keep up with. So it stood to reason that her life would represent excitement and love and joy-and these were the gifts that she gave to her family without fail. Let's take a moment now and play back the "video" of Sanya's life and get a better glimpse into the person that's brought us all here today.

Sanya was educated in Durham Public Schools. Her jovial and kind spirit caused her to make friends easily-some of those friendships, like Shirirona Phillips Johnson, lasted throughout Sanya's lifetime. These two met at Hillside High School where they were members of the marching band. Sanya played the clarinet and enjoyed-to the fullest-all that came along with being a young girl with a promising future. Some of the activities that helped to shape that future included her committed involvement in the Girl Scouts and the youth choir at her home church, Community Baptist. It was during her youth that she recognized the need for an enduring faith, causing her to accept Christ as her Lord and Savior. She would later need to stand on the very faith that she discovered in her early life.

After graduating from Hillside High School in 1984, Sanya went on to become

a Hampton Pirate at Hampton University. It was a dream come true! While there, she was a member of "The Force," the mighty HU marching band. As an accounting major, Sanya was still able to enjoy college life, make countless friends, and complete her degree in 1988. It was at HU that Sanya met and became roommates with Bridgett Watkins who would later become her sorority sister.

One year after college graduation, Sanya fulfilled her longtime dream of becoming a member of the "first and the finest"-Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.-on April 8, 1989 with the Mu Omicron Omega Chapter. From that moment on, it was all things pink and green. Sanya was a committed member of her sorority and served as a graduate advisor for the Theta Pi Chapter at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. But in true Sanya style, she served in various roles in the sorority, chaired various committees, and was recognized for her service. In 2014, Sanya became a Silver Star, with 25 years of service to the sorority that she held near and dear, later becoming a Life Member. She enjoyed and looked forward to attending sorority -related events with her relatives that were also in the sorority. It really was all about AKA!

Sanya worked with the family company, Alexander and Associates, after graduating from Hampton, becoming a real estate agent and the director of property management. As a math teacher at Neal Middle School, Sanya also did private tutoring-all in Durham. In the city of Durham and beyond we all know that the best that happened to Sanya was the gift called Bria Lauren Adams, her only child, born on March 1, 1995 at Durham Regional Hospital, to Sanya and her now ex-husband, Troy.

But everything must change, Sanya and Bria headed to Virginia, leaving the Bull City behind, to start afresh. While in Newport News and Norfolk, V.A., Sanya worked as a property manager, was active with her local AKA chapter

and later moved to Franklin, V.A., where she was the Director of Housing Management-Franklin Redevelopment & Housing Authority for the City of Franklin. She was a devoted member of the Lambda Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in Franklin and could be found in service with AKA on any given day. Sanya and her beloved daughter were inseparable and she did all that she knew how to be the best Mom that she could be-from hosting prom night parties to making sure that Bria understood the need for Christ. She was a working Mom raising her daughter, active in community service, and still found the time to complete her MBA at the University of Phoenix just a few years ago.

Everything must change-but not Sanya's faith, determination, and strength. In early 2016, Sanya was diagnosed with Stage 4 Colon Cancer, yet, she continued working and doing all the things that brought joy to her life. She never really missed a beat and remained, until her last breath, the consummate example of what the name "Sanya" means: brilliant; radiant. She took the time to look stylish, to mentor those around her, and to provide a light of kindness and love. And even though, she slipped away from us on Sunday, September 30, 2018, surrounded by her loved ones in her parents' home, her brilliance, her radiance will stay with each of us....Forever.

Left to celebrate Sanya's wonderful life and legacy, are her parents Redditt and Ida Alexander, Durham, N.C., one daughter, Bria Adams, Franklin, V.A., god-sisters Delisia Matthews, Raleigh, N.C. and Zenita Garvin (Joshua), Centerville, V.A. She also leaves her aunts which include; Beatrice Sauls, Boston, M.A., Mattie Miles (Joe), Kinston, N.C., Negleathia Johnson (Jimmy), Clifton, V.A., Carrie Ann Burks, New Orleans, L.A., and Tercolia Reaves, Greensboro, N.C.; two uncles, Frank Alexander, New Orleans, L.A. and John D. Burks, Jr. (Joanne), New Orleans, L.A. Among her many special friends are high school classmate

Shirlrona Johnson, Ron and Katherine Hunter, Mabel Jones Matthews and Daphne Darden. The host of other relatives and friends that Sanya leaves behind is a testament to the impact her life had on those whose lives she touched.

Cemetery Details

Beechwood Cemetery

3300 Fayetteville St
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 560-4154

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Community Baptist Church
4821 Barbee Rd
Durham, NC 27713

Celebration of Life

OCT 6. 12:00 PM (ET)

Community Baptist Church
4821 Barbee Rd
Durham, NC 27713

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Sanya Alexander Adams*

October 05, 2023 at 11:31 AM



“ *I still can't believe that my niece is gone. Oh the good times that we had. Thank you Sanya for the joy and laughter you brought to my life and the lives of so very many.*

*Your Aunt and Soror,
Negleatha*



Negleatha Johnson - October 08, 2018 at 10:18 PM



“ *Sandra Battle lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Sanya Alexander Adams*



Sandra Battle - October 06, 2018 at 06:39 PM

S1

“ Sandra Battle, DBC Class Of 1973 lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Sanya Alexander Adams



Sandra Battle, DBC Class of 1973 - October 06, 2018 at 06:37 PM

LH

“ I pray that God will comfort and strengthen you in the loss of your Mother and daughter!! So sorry to hear of your loss. It's been a long time, but I remember her bringing her daughter, Bria to choir rehearsal at Orange Grove when I was working with the children's choir. They were both so committed and devoted. I also remember grandma and grandpa coming to support Bria and Sanya on the Sundays Bria sang.

Remember that death cannot diminish the loving ways Sanya touched your lives; that sorrow and grief will fade in time, but the precious memories remain --the time Sanya shared laughing, joking; and giving Motherly advice to you Bria.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,, He will direct your paths.
Proverbs 3:5,6

Lottie Hayes - October 06, 2018 at 10:13 AM

VW

“ My sympathy to the family for your loss. I meet Sanya many years ago when she worked with Durham City Schools(now Durham Public School). Sanya would always keep my laughing. I remember her wedding and meeting her family prior to this time. I pray that God will comfort and strengthen the family.

Viola Webb - October 05, 2018 at 07:23 PM

LP

“ *To the Alexander and Adams Family of Sanya:*

My deepest sympathy to the family for your loss. What a ray of sunshine Sanya brought to each and every person she encountered. We all will miss her bright smile. In this time of sadness, may the Lord lead the family to a place of peace.

HHS - Class 1984

Lisa Parker-Hawkins - October 05, 2018 at 09:11 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Sanya Alexander Adams.*



October 04, 2018 at 03:56 PM

OV

“ *Oak Grove Baptist Church Family, Suffolk, VA purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Sanya Alexander Adams.*



Oak Grove Baptist Church Family, Suffolk, VA - October 04, 2018 at 12:28 PM

TS

“ *The Staff at Virtus Security purchased the Sweet est Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Sanya Alexander Adams.*



The Staff at Virtus Security - October 04, 2018 at 08:55 AM

PP

“ *Words seem inadequate to express the sadness we feel about Sanya's death. We are here to support you in your grieving process.*
Pap and Walterene Parrish

Pap Parrish - October 03, 2018 at 10:59 PM

CL

“ *To the family and friends of Sanya A. Adams:
It is with heartfelt emotions that I offer my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of this joyful and oh so pleasant young woman. Whenever we saw one another, it was always fun. It was good to hear the joys of her life: She was a sorority sister, a wife, a mother, a business woman, and a community person who loved family and friends. Each time we talked it was a pleasant time to catch up and examine what future plans were in the works. Always with a smile, she would greet me with a hug. May the angels be with her as the gates of heaven open for Sanya A. Adams.*

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Caroline L. Lattimore

Mentor

15th Mid-Atlantic Regional Director

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

Caroline L. Lattimore - October 03, 2018 at 06:54 PM

DC

“ *My sincerest condolences to the Alexander and Adams family. I have the fondest memories of growing up with Sanya in Erwinwoods. Sanya was always congenial and loved by all. Her infectious smile and love of laughter always made for instant friendship. I am reminded of her Sweet Sixteenth birthday party, and how much she was loved by everyone. I am certain that Sanya is wearing her wings proudly!* Dr. Carlous Caple and family.

Dr. Carlous Caple - October 03, 2018 at 02:17 PM

DM

“ *Prayers to Bria, and to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander. Sanya, and I sung together at Orange Grove for a few years, and we shared a lot of good times, going to sing, bowl, and out to eat. She will always hold a special place in my heart. May God bless and keep you all in the days to come.* Daunte' L. Marrow

Daunte Marrow - October 02, 2018 at 01:32 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Sanya Alexander Adams.*



October 02, 2018 at 08:56 AM

LP

“ *We are so sorry to hear about the passing of Sanya. Praying God's love surrounds you to provide peace beyond understanding. Love the Robinson family (Newton Grove).*



LeDonna Pegues - October 02, 2018 at 05:53 AM