



## Elizabeth Dawn Alford

July 27, 1977 - July 22, 2019

Miss Elizabeth Dawn Alford, age 41, of Temple, passed away suddenly, Monday, July 22, 2019. She was born July 27, 1977 in Carroll County, Georgia the daughter of Mr. Johnny Alford and Mrs. Jean Cole Alford. She was the 1984 Poster Child for Muscular Dystrophy. Miss Alford graduated as Valedictorian of Temple High School and later graduated from Georgia Tech Magna Cum Laude with a Chemical Engineer degree. She was a Public Policy Director and Lobbyist at the Georgia State Capital with Georgia Council of Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) for six years. She was very inspirational, learning to be an advocate for herself and overcoming all obstacles. She was a member of Mt. Carmal Baptist Church in Temple. She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Frank Edward Cole; paternal grandparents, Hubert and Dorothy Gable Alford; uncle, Jimmy Alford; two fur babies that were her service dogs, Maggie and McAllister. She is survived by her parents, Johnny and Jean Alford of Temple; maternal grandmother, Nell "Nellie" Puckett Cole of Temple; aunts and uncles, Aletta Alford of Tacoma, WA, Sammy and Ann Alford of Brandon, FL, Roger and Diane Duggins of Carrollton; six cousins; Candice "Candy" and Dominic Korzecki of Bradenton, FL, Bobby and Heather Alford of Bradenton, FL, Brent Duggins of Bremen, Julie Duggins of Decatur, Kathy and Robert Alford McCarty-O'hairt of Tacoma, WA, Steve and Perla Alford of Freeport, TX; fur baby and her service dog, "KAB"; several great aunts and uncles also survive.

The family will receive friends at Jones-Wynn Funeral Home in Villa Rica, Thursday, July 25, 2019 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Funeral Service will be conducted Friday, July 26, 2019 at 2:00 PM from the Chapel of Jones-Wynn Funeral Home with Dr. Curtis "Corky" Addison officiating. Interment will follow at Beulahland Baptist Cemetery. Those desiring to do so may make contributions to the Canine Assistance, 3160 Francis Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at [www.jones-wynn.com](http://www.jones-wynn.com). Jones-Wynn Funeral Home, Inc. and Cremation Services are in charge of arrangements. 770-459-3694

# Cemetery

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## Beulahland Cemetery in Rockmart

229 Pleasant Grove Road  
Rockmart, GA, 30153

# Events

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**JUL** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

**25**

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Jones-Wynn Funeral Home, Villa Rica Chapel  
306 Westview Drive, Villa Rica, GA, US,  
30180

**JUL** **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

**26**

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Jones-Wynn Funeral Home, Villa Rica Chapel  
306 Westview Drive, Villa Rica, GA, US,  
30180

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Jones-Wynn Funeral Home** - July 25 at 11:55 AM



“ Such a sweet young lady always smiling and a blessing to be around her.

**elaine hicks** - July 25 at 04:17 PM



“ Dear Alford family and friends,  
Dawn was a bright light. She was a savvy, effective advocate for policies which make justice and opportunity accessible. Dawn's intelligence and warmth were exceeded only by her faith in the LORD. At this difficult time following her sudden passing, may you draw comfort from knowing Dawn made a difference on earth and she is with the LORD.

**Joelle M. Brouner** - July 25 at 06:44 PM



“ I am still in shock and grief stricken that Dawn won't be in the halls of the Capitol with us next year. She was a skilled advocate and lobbyist who made a tremendous impact in our state and with the legislature. I will miss our discussions about many things but especially red hair and faith. I'm so sorry that I wasn't able to pay my respects to you all at the service. You are all in my prayers!

**MaryLea Boatwright Quinn** - July 26 at 05:25 PM



“ I will miss you and maybe some day we will get to meet again whenever we can  
Miss you so much and my heart will fill with peace

**Phillip Modesitt** - July 27 at 05:08 PM



“ Dawn always kept me updated on the needs of individuals w/ disabilities and always showed care & concern for my son. I looked forward to each session to see her smiling face rolling through the Capitol w/ her faithful dog. She will be truly missed. May God grant the family peace and strength. Gratefully, Rep. Valencia Stovall

**Rep. Valencia Stovall** - July 29 at 09:18 AM



“ I've only been in Atlanta for a year, but Dawn has been someone who has impacted my life and my journey as a disability rights advocate. We worked together during advocacy days at the capital this year and I am so grateful to have had the chance to learn from her work ethic, her passion, her knowledge and her exemplary advocacy! SO GRATEFUL for her LIFE!

veronica apecena - July 28 at 03:45 AM

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“ Dawn was a beautiful light in this world! She worked hard to make a difference for others and served as a champion for many! Dawn blazed a trail for others to follow and was an inspiration to so many! It saddens my heart to hear the news of her passing. Prayers are going out for her beautiful family who loved her so and helped open many doors for her.

Karen Suddeth - July 26 at 02:51 PM

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“ Alford family...I am so saddened by this news. I hope you all are comforted by family and friends at this time. I will miss seeing her at Emory. Diane Beckwith, PT

Diane Beckwith - July 26 at 02:13 PM

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“ I met Dawn at The Speak Foundation Annual Conference in Atlanta the year she spoke to us about advocacy in Georgia. I remember thinking, "Wow, this girl is so polished and poised with public speaking!" She truly had a gift in that area, and I was so impressed with her knowledge.

I got to know her more that weekend and more so at the next year's annual conference. We continued to stay in touch through Facebook and chatted online from time to time. We were in some of the same Facebook groups, shared a love for our fur babies and both had a passion for helping the NMD community.

We spoke on the phone earlier this spring, and I regret that I fell somewhat out of touch with her after that. I will always remember what a caring person she was and how strong her faith in God was.

Sending love and prayers for comfort and peace to her family and close friends...

Andrea L. Klein

Breathe with MD, Inc.

Andrea Klein - July 25 at 06:04 PM

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“ Dawn will always be a beautiful Lady in the hearts of many. I have know the family for so many years. My Mama (Nancy Weathington) held a very special place in her heart for Dawn. I remember her calling me laughing saying Dawn wanted to race me in our chairs today. May God be with all the family. Love Lela

Lela Roberts - July 25 at 03:17 PM

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“ Dawn was a beautiful young lady. I still have a cassette tape of songs she recorded. Prayers to a wonderful family! The Williams and Bryant Families

Cindy Bryant - July 25 at 01:31 PM

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“ I knew Dawn from her advocacy work at the Georgia Capitol. There are not words to express my dismay at her loss. What an example of love, kindness, compassion and selfless giving. She was an inspiration to all. Sincere condolences to her family and canine partner. She will be missed.



Laura Searcy - July 25 at 01:24 PM

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“ 4 files added to the album LifeTributes



Jones-Wynn Funeral Home - July 25 at 01:08 PM

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“ I am so lucky to have worked with Dawn on advocacy issues for a number of years. She was a thoughtful collaborator as we advocated for the best ways to support individuals who receive long-term services and supports, whether in the community or in facilities. Her perspective helped me to think more broadly about solutions to problems. All of the advocates will miss Dawn's advice and camaraderie.

Melanie McNeil, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Melanie McNeil - July 25 at 12:28 PM

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“ I am saddened to hear of the passing of Ms Dawn Alford. I worked with Dawn at the Emory MDA clinic for several years. She was a kind, impressive, and inspirational person. I admired so many things about her life and her attitude towards life and living. Her public policy advocacy is greatly appreciated and impacted the lives of those with disabilities.  
Dale Strasser, MD

Dale Strasser - July 25 at 12:20 PM

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“ 29 files added to the album LifeTributes



Jones-Wynn Funeral Home - July 25 at 11:50 AM

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“ Dawn touched so many, including myself. I was inspired when I met her while filming a short piece on how waiting lists for ICWP and MRWP (it was called back then) affected people and their families who lived with the anxiety of uncertain futures. Things I took for granted because of my narrow life experience. Her life and memory inspired, educated, challenged my perspective.

I watched how this inspiring lady gave herself with humility, intellect, and kindness to others. She remains a gift.

David Blanchard - July 25 at 11:00 AM

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David Blanchard - July 25 at 10:57 AM

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“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Dawn Alford.



July 25 at 10:34 AM

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“ I was deeply saddened to learn of Dawn’s sudden passing. She was a passionate and persistent advocate, always pleasant and professional in her fight for people with disabilities. Georgia has lost a shining light. She will be missed.

Judy Fitzgerald

Judy Fitzgerald - July 25 at 08:15 AM

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“ Family <3 You made the positive impact in life that most will never obtain. Thanks for all you did for others on your short stay here on Earth

Lee Bracknell - July 24 at 07:17 PM

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“ Dawn and I worked together on everything from animal issues to disability-related issues. She was always gracious even when we disagreed and she was quick to get to the heart of things. She was a great advocate and a friend. I will miss her a lot.  
Kay Kirkpatrick, MD

Kay Kirkpatrick - July 24 at 03:04 PM

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“ I met Dawn when she was working to pass the Employment 1st legislation in Georgia. I was immediately impressed with her commitment and advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities. Her knowledge regarding legislation in other states and her strategic approach to passing the legislation reflected her intellect and passion. She paired her passion for advocacy with a kind heart and a sense of humor that naturally drew people to her. She also was very patient with her colleagues who were dog lovers and too often broke the rules when her dogs were working. Dawn's presence brought light to any room. I will miss her!



“ Dawn was a great friend and advocate! She always put others needs first and I was blessed to have known her many years! State Senator Greg Kirk

Greg Kirk - July 24 at 12:36 PM

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“ I met Dawn at the Georgia Capital Advocating for ABLE. I remember she was the sweetest. She asked me, if my son had everything he needed. Does he get all the services he needs & waivers. I remember thinking she cares more about helping others & has the sweetest spirit.



Lori - July 24 at 12:32 PM

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“ Dawn and I collaborated on public policy related to Medicaid during her time at the Georgia Council for Developmental Disabilities. I am an old-time disability advocate from another part of the country; Dawn gave me a fresh, personal vision of just how far the disability revolution has come. She was always smart and cheerful, dedicated to her advocacy work, to her beloved family and to God. We texted several times on Monday morning because she was sick and had to cancel a conference call we scheduled. Her last text to me just before noon was "pray for me". I did. I'll miss you terribly Dawn.  
--Jean Logan

Jean Logan - July 24 at 12:25 PM



“ So sad. Rest in peace Dawn. May God strengthen all thgse you left behind.  
Ada Ngoddy, Rex Childcare

Ada Ngoddy - July 25 at 11:10 AM

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“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Hillary Hibben - July 24 at 12:21 PM

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“ She was a strong advocate in her community she was very friendly and a nice person and I will keep her family saying prayer rest in peace

Sheila - July 24 at 12:19 PM

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“ Dawn was a phenomenal human being that I am grateful to have known and worked with. She was always poised and determined. Her loss will be felt by many for a long time to come. By thoughts and love are with all of her family and friends.

Dawn Johnson - July 24 at 12:06 PM

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“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Dawn Alford.



July 24 at 11:47 AM

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“ I met Dawn at the council meeting in Atlanta, GA. We shared many concerns me being the mother of two adult daughter with DD. and Dawn compassion always made me feel loved and strong. I will miss your smiling face and the jokes we shared. God will see a special person in heaven. My love to the family.

Millie Powell - July 24 at 11:42 AM

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“ Heaven has gained an angel! I talked with Dawn and mother on Thursday of last week- Dawn was a great advocate. Amazing young woman. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.



**Ann Searcy** - July 24 at 11:01 AM

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“ I did not know Dawn long. That said, I was privileged to work with her on a project to get the word out about service dogs and the laws governing them. As someone who is been involved in the disability rights community for a long time, what impressed me about Dawn was that she was a wonderful person. Also, unlike many, she did not silo her disability. That is, she truly looked at disability rights globally rather than through the prism of her own disability. For that, I am very grateful. She will be sorely missed.

**William D Goren** - July 24 at 10:46 AM

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“ My name is Faye Capers and I want to extend my condolences and prayers to the family. I work in the disability community and I would always see Dawn at many events. It will be hard to imagine this community without her and her faithful service dog. She will be missed very much. She was a faithful advocate for people with disabilities and I know that her reward will be great. Be encouraged and know that Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. May the Peace of the Lord be with you always

**Faye Capers** - July 24 at 10:10 AM

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“ Dawn was this breath of fresh air. She just knew what to say and make it just.. go away. She had one of the purest hearts I'd ever seen! She touched the lives of so many people in her time. Words can't explain how her loss feels. Prayers for her family and friends, of strength and peace. She definitely was one amazing woman

**dawn lockhart** - July 24 at 05:34 AM

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“ Will always remember you lady as one of the strongest people I know. Watch you grow up and become the lady you are my prays are with you Jonny and Jean love yall David Lockkear

David Lockkear - July 24 at 04:03 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elizabeth Dawn Alford.



July 23 at 11:55 PM

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“ She was always the light in the room! Heaven gained an angel! Never a negative thought and full of love and laughter. This world will not be the same without her! My thoughts and prayers are with her family.



Kimberly Britt - July 23 at 11:25 PM

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“ Dawn was a skilled public policy advocate. When I came down from New York to Georgia, she provided an unvarnished version of the political landscape in Georgia. Her direct approach made me a better activist for the disability community. She will be missed. - Bob

Bob - July 23 at 10:58 PM

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“ The first time I met this family was at church. My children Natalie and Johnathan were about Dawn's age. Nothing slowed Dawn down! They played and became close over the years! When I moved back to Georgia a few years ago I talked with Dawn so many times and we shared so many life stories! She was always

encouraging and positive. I loved just hearing her sweet voice and sharing scriptures with her. My family is so honored to have shared a small part of her precious life. Her love for people was unlimited and her dedication to her God and her family and friends shined in her sweet smiles and words. I know all that loved her will carry that love she gave us all in our hearts forever. Prayers for her sweet parents and what a Godly job they had in making her life so full and blessed. We will all be with Dawn again one day and I can't wait to see her running to greet us all!

Love and prayers,  
Teresa Woodward



Teresa Woodward - July 23 at 08:43 PM

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“ My family and I first met Dawn and her family when we starting going to Beulahland Baptist. We loved to hear her sing for JESUS, I have a cassette tape with Miss Dawn singing.

My condolences go out to the Alford family. Will be praying for God to shower you with peace during this difficult time. My Mama passed away 4 years ago. And it is hard still. But she's not hurting anymore. And I remember Dawn having to be in wheelchair but she's walking for JESUS now.

She always had a beautiful smile to greet people with whenever you were around her.

Love

VICKY PAYNE

Vicky Payne - July 23 at 07:54 PM

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“ I will miss Dawn so very much.

Sending love,

Holly CothranDrake

A.K.A. “Maybull’s Mom”

Holly CothranDrake - July 23 at 07:51 PM