



## James A. Alford

December 26, 1920 - September 24, 2015

James Alexander Alford, age 94, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan passed away Thursday evening, September 24, 2015 at McKinley Manor, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. James was born December 26, 1920 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan to the late James and Martha (Dingman) Alford. He was the youngest of eight children. He was a graduate of Soo High class of 1940. James served in the United States Coast Guard from 1942-1945. He became one of the first members of the BPOE Elk Lodge, he was also a member of the American Legion, VFW, Red Coats and Chamber of Commerce. He also was honored with the Citizen of the Year UP Sports Hall of Fame and received the Governors citation from the State of Michigan. James married Wanda Peterson on October 1, 1947 at the First Church of Christ. He started working for the United States Postal Services 1941 and retired in 1986 as Assistant Postmaster He was elected to City Commission from 1967-1983, elected Mayor from 1983-1989. James received many awards and citations over the years. He truly loved the city of Sault Ste. Marie and for this, they dedicated the James A. Alford Water Front Park in honor of serve. James is survived by his children: Jane (Jerry) Engstrom of Grand Blanc, MI, Kevin Alford of Sault Ste. Marie, MI, and Julie (Daryel) McCarrel of Port Huron, MI; grandchildren: Craig Engstrom, Jill (Casey) Kondel, Brian Alford and Paul (Kaami) Alford; 7 great grandchildren: Peyton, Hunter, Taylor, Sadie, Sloan, Leif, and Quinn. James was preceded in death by his parents, wife Wanda Alford in 2010 one son Mark Alford in 1989, and one daughter: Jill Alford in 1971 and daughter in

law Cynthia Alford in 2007. The family would like to like to thank McKinley Manor for their loving care of their parents. We would to thank Nancy Miller for her special nursing care of their father. A funeral will be held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 at C.S. Mulder Funeral Home. Friends may call on the Funeral Home Monday from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Burial will be at Oak Lawn Cemetery In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left to Hospice of the EUP and First Church of Christ.

# Tribute Wall

MW

“ I have a picture somewhere in one of my photo albums of the James Alford memorial park sign with my brother and my son standing on each side of it. Jameses brother was Gilbert Alford Gilbert Alford was my grandfather. I was very sorry to hear of his passing. The attached picture is Gil's youngest and only remaining child, her daughter and myself. They live in Michigan.

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**Marna Wiltgen** - August 21, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I was sorry to hear this. I didn't know until recently. I lost my husband that same year. I am the granddaughter of Gilbert and Alice Alford. My mother was Donna Joyce Alford. I have visited the park that was named for my great Uncle James Alford.

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**Marna Jean Flanary** - July 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ To Jane , Kevin and Julie go my deepest sympathy. Your parents were always so good to us, the neighborhood children, and we have very good memories of them and of all of you. My mother also passed away in December of 2014 and I know what you are going through. Your father did many good things for his community and you can always be proud of that. Things have changed so much since we were children and they were such an integral part of living in the Soo; the years have passed very quickly and I sometimes wish we could go back and be children playing on your porch roof again (do you remember that?). Please know how much I am thinking of you and hoping that your memories will bring you some peace and comfort. Your parents were both very special people.  
Karen

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**Karen (Gard) Stephenson** - October 02, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Mayor, We will miss you so much. You were the best ambassador for the Soo, EVER. To your loving family, our sincere condolences. Especially our dear friends, Julie and Daryel. God bless you all.

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**Jim, Lita and the Bennett Famly** - September 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ It was my great pleasure to know this family. God bless the living and I know those who passed are sitting at Jesus feet.

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**Robert Beecroft** - September 28, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NE

“ So sorry for your loss, What a wonderful family! May God bless you all.

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**Nancy Earl-Wojciechowski** - September 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM