



Daniel Lee Alford, Jr  
"D.L."  
1915-2002  
Catherine Guynes Alford  
1915-2000

*Daniel Lee Alford, Jr.*  
(D.L.)

Jan 24, 1915 - Dec 11, 2002  
AAFA #0054

***Daniel Lee Alford Jr. AAFA #0054***  
***Member of AAFA Hall of Fame***  
***(1915-2002)***

Although it had been expected for some time we were sorry to receive word of D.L.'s death. He was dedicated to his family, our Alford heritage and the AAFA.

The following obituary was printed in The Burleson County Citizen-Tribune, Caldwell, Burleson Co., TX, Thursday Dec. 12, 2002.

***Funeral Services Held For Civic Leader Alford***

*Funeral services for D.L. Alford, Jr., 87, a longtime Caldwell business and civic leader, were held at 2 p. m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2002, at the First Presbyterian Church of Caldwell.*

*Mr. Alford died in the early morning hours of Dec. 9, 2002.*

*He was born Jan. 24, 1915, the only son of Daniel Lee Alford, Sr., and Annie Klukan Alford in their home. He was truly a native son of Caldwell and of Texas. He was a fifth generation Texan and a descendant of Philip Bruce Scott, who came to Texas from Tennessee in 1831 to join Robertson's Colony in what is now Burleson County.*

*He attended the Caldwell public schools. Music was his earliest love. It remained one of his deepest interests throughout his life, and he was instrumental in forming a local youth orchestra. He graduated as salutatorian of the Class of 1932. D.L.'s interest in music earned him a scholarship to Baylor University as a member of the Golden Wave Band. During his sophomore year at Baylor, he and his classmates formed a dance orchestra known as "Dan Alford and his Varsitonians." The band performed throughout the state for several years, including performances in Houston and Dallas and an extended stint in the lavish Rice Hotel in Houston.*

*When he graduated from Baylor in 1936, he considered the pursuit of a career in music, but ultimately decided to enter the insurance business. He later became a casualty underwriter, licensed as "D.L. Alford, Jr. Insurance."*

*He was the epitome of the family man family and friends said. On Dec. 26, 1939, he married Catherine Grace Guynes at the First Methodist Church in Franklin. They had two sons, Lee Alford, III and James Joseph Alford.*

*D. L. was a pillar of the business community in Caldwell and in Burleson County, and service to others was an invaluable part of his life. During World War II D.L. served as a field director for the American Red Cross, stationed in Missouri and later in San Antonio.*

*In addition to the life insurance, D.L. and Catherine opened the Surrey Inn Motel and Restaurant in 1962.*

*He also served as chairman of the board of directors for the Caldwell National Bank.*

*He was a charter member of the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce, having served as its president, as a member of the board of directors, and as chairman of its industrial committee for many years. He also served as director of the East Texas Chamber of Commerce, of the Brazos Valley Development Council and as a 27 year alderman on the Caldwell City Council. One of his lifelong dreams was realized with the organization of the Burleson County Industrial Foundation. He served as the first chairman of the foundation. D.L. was also a member of many professional organizations, of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and on the board of directors for the former*

Goodnight Memorial Hospital in Caldwell. He was a charter member of the Burleson County Historical Commission and of the Burleson County Historical Society.

Perhaps his deepest and longest standing affiliation was with the Rotary service organization, which works tirelessly to improve the quality of life in communities throughout the world. In fact, his friends and acquaintances affectionately dubbed him "Mr. Rotary, " Over a period of years, he held a number of leadership positions in his local club, and in 1979 he was honored to serve as district governor of District 587, which encompasses much of central Texas. Thereafter, he continued to

serve others through Rotary, holding various leadership positions on the local, state, national and international levels.

He will always be known for his deep and abiding religious faith He was a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church of Caldwell, and was also an associate member of the First United Methodist Church of Caldwell. It pleased him greatly that he was able to purchase and donate to the Presbyterian Church the lovely organ now in use and the beautiful outdoor chimes which can be heard throughout Caldwell.

D.L. will always be remembered for his strong Christian faith, his love

and devotion to family, his never ending commitment to the City of Caldwell and to Burleson County and his "dedicated adherence to the guiding principle of the Rotary organization, "Service above Self," family and friends said

He was preceded in death by his wife of more than 60 years, Catherine Grace Guynes Alford.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Lee A. Afford, III, and Mary Collerain. Alford and James Joseph Alford and Kathy Burgess Alford, all of Caldwell; four grandsons and one great-granddaughter.



**D. L. Alford took the mic at the meeting  
In St. Francisville, LA in 1993 to make  
an announcement**

D.L. was the subject of an article found by Helen Steele, AAFA #0904. She thought it would be of interest to all.

From **NOTABLE EAST TEXANS** by Archie P. McDonald and Ronald L. Spiller: (don't have publication data, but published after 1980)

*Daniel Lee Alford, Jr. (1915--). Daniel Lee Alford, Jr., a lifelong resident of Burleson County, is a Caldwell civic leader, representative of the Southwestern Life Insurance Company of Dallas, and owner of his own insurance agency*

*Born in Caldwell, TX, on January 24, 1915, Alford is the son of Daniel Lee Alford and Annie Klukan. Some of Alford's ancestors settled in Burleson County as early as 1831 as part of Sterling Robertson's colony. Annie Klukan descended, in part from Czech emigrants who came to Texas before the American Civil War.*

*Alford attended public schools in Caldwell and was graduated from high school in 1932. He attended Baylor University, where he received a band scholarship. While at Baylor he joined a dance band and eventually became its leader. "Dan Alford and His Varsitonians" played in local restaurants and hotels and toured Central and South Texas during the summer months. After graduation in 1936 Alford went on the road with the band but returned home in early 1937 to enter the insurance business.*

*On December 26, 1939, Alford married Catherine Grace Guynes in Franklin TX. Catherine Guynes who was born in Franklin, descended on her mother's side from early Texas pioneers who had emigrated from Indiana in 1840. Her grandfather, Henry Pelham Kellogg, fought under Col. John S. Ford in the last land engagement of the American Civil War, the Battle of Palmito Ranch on May 11-14, 1865. Catherine Guynes was graduated from high school in Big Lake, TX, and attended Baylor University in 1931 and 1932. She*

*returned home and went to work for a time in a bank. She eventually became a teacher in Mumfords where she met Alford.*

*During World War II Alford worked for the American Red Cross as a field director in Missouri and in San Antonio. Catherine Alford acquired insurance licenses and ran the family insurance business in Caldwell. Returning home at the end of the war, Alford kept his wife as an active partner in the family business. In 1962 the Alfords built The Surrey Inn, a motel and restaurant at the intersection of State Highways 21 and 36.*

*Both Alfords are active in Caldwell civic life. D. L. Alford served as alderman for the city of Caldwell. He is a member of the Burleson County Industrial Foundation, The Brazos Valley Development Council, and has served as a director of the Caldwell National Bank and the Goodnight Memorial Hospital and is a member of the Caldwell Rotary Club.*

*Catherine Alford has been a member of the Caldwell ParentTeacher Association, Caldwell Band Boosters, Caldwell Woman's Club, and the Caldwell Garden Club. She is presently involved with the Friends of the Library and the Burleson County Historical Commission. She compiled and was responsible for publishing *ASTRIDE THE OLD SAN ANTONIO ROAD: A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF BURLESON COUNTY* (Taylor Publishing, 1980).*

*The Alfords have two sons, Daniel Lee III who is a cattle rancher, and James Joseph, who works with his parents in the family insurance agency.*

#### **D. L. Alford, Jr., His Family and His Alford Ancestors**

**D. L. Alford** was proud of the fact that so many in his family (three generations) were members of AAFA. His immediate family:

1. **Daniel Lee Alford, Jr.** b. Jan. 24, 1915, Burleson Co., TX, m. Dec. 26, 1939, **Catherine Guynes**, b. May 9, 1915, d. Oct. 7, 2000, Caldwell, Burleson Co., TX. Daniel died Dec. 9, 2002, Caldwell, Burleson Co., TX. D. L. and Catherine are founding members #0054 Alford American Family Association. D. L. was instrumental in the early growth and development of the association and has been inducted into the Associations Hall of Fame.

#### *Children:*

- + 2. i Daniel Lee Alford, III
- + 3. ii James Joseph Alford

#### Second Generation

2. **Daniel Lee Alford, III** (1.Daniel<sup>1</sup>) b. Bell County, Texas, m. **Mary A. Collerain**,. Lee and Mary are charter members #0170 Alford American Family Association.

#### *Children:*

- 4. i **Daniel Lee Alford, IV** b. Burleson Co., TX.

Lee IV is a charter member 0166Alford American Family Association.

- + 5. ii Michael Bruce Alford

3. **James Joseph Alford** (1.Daniel<sup>1</sup>) b. Burleson Co., TX, m. **Kathryn Lurene Burgess**. Jim and Kathryn are founding members #0058 Alford American Family Association.

#### *Children:*

- 6. i Joseph Woodrow Alford b. Burleson Co., TX
- 7. ii Andrew James Alford b. Burleson Co., TX

#### Third Generation

5. Michael Bruce Alford (2.Daniel<sup>2</sup>, 1.Daniel<sup>1</sup>) b. Caldwell, Burleson Co., TX, m. in Devine, Medina Co. TX, **Cynthia Lynn Cox**, b. San Antonio, Bexar Co., TX, Bruce and Cynthia are charter members #0244 Alford American Family Association

#### *Children:*

Birth and death dates are estimates based on other recorded events in New Kent County, VA in the St. Peter's Parish Register.

PLEASE NOTE: It is not proven that he was the son of John Alford but there is some circumstantial evidence indicating that he is.

6th Great Grand father

256. **John Alford** b. about 1645, probably Virginia, died Mar. 14, 1710, New Kent Co., VA.



Family of D. L. and Catherine Alford: Lee Alford IV (grandson), Catherine, James J. Alford (back left), his wife Kathryn, and their sons Joe and Drew; Lee Alford III (back right), his wife Mary, and D.L. Alford, Jr. The photo was taken at the Houston, TX meeting in 1989



Catherine and D. L. Alford, owners of the Surrey Inn in Caldwell, TX posed in earlier years in a surrey which was at the time in front of the inn. In later years, the surrey was moved inside the inn

**D. L. Alford and the AAFA**  
**Submitted by Gil Alford AAFA #0019, Member AAFA Hall of Fame**

D. L. meant more to this association than most folks can imagine. He had not heard of the AAFA and all of the Alford work that led to the establishment of the organization until early in 1988, but when he did hear of the association he made up for lost time. Note the frequency and regularity of his letters. He wrote seven letters before the first AAFA meeting in October and although he could not make the meeting personally his input to that meeting and subsequent fallout was one of the most important aspects of the meeting. See more following D.L.'s letters below.

Feb. 18, 1988 he wrote:

*"I am researching the Alford family line and would appreciate any information you might be able to provide. I think that I am descended from Lodwick of New Kent County, VA but don't have enough information to verify it. If you are doing research commercially, please give fees.*

Mar. 16, 1988 he wrote:

*"Thanks very much for your letter and for the information you gave. It was most helpful. I called Mrs. Ruby Alford Heard in Jackson, Miss., and she is going to send information on Halcut. I am enclosing some things which will probably be of interest to you. I will sort out more if you would like. As to our Texas kin, do you have information on the Halberts and the Haileys? They are descended from Halcut. I do have some info on them. My son Jim says that he would like to join the Alford American Family Association and would like to subscribe to About Alford. Please send forms.*

*Thanks again. "*

Enclosed with the letter above was D.L.'s application for membership making him founding member #0054. Son Jim's application was received

soon after making him founding member #0058.

Apr. 17, 1988 he wrote:

*"I am sending information on Richard Erwin Alford, Philip, Robert A. and Florence Inez. Aunt Inez is living and will be 95 on May 12.*

*There is very little info on John W., born June 15, 1847 died August 9, 1909. He married Beatrice Stone on May 16, 1876. He later married Elizabeth Shackelford. Aunt Inez says he had a daughter by Beatrice and no children by Elizabeth. He is buried in Salem Cemetery here in Burleson County.*

*Additional information will be forthcoming on the DeWitt Alford descendants. I will have to go to Houston to visit with Margarete and Mildred when I can.*

May 10, 1988 he wrote:

*"Catherine and I had planned to visit with you on our return trip from Philadelphia, but due to time constraints it will not be possible. Perhaps we can do it at a later date.*

*I deeply appreciate the information you have sent. It had made possible a major break-through in my Alford line.*

*I feel sure that more members of our family will contact you concerning "About Alford" and the Alford American Family Association.*

June 14, 1988 he wrote:

*"Thank you for your letter of June 5. We are back home trying to catch up after a very good trip. We had a very enjoyable and fruitful visit with Ruby Heard in Jackson, Miss. Catherine and I obtained much new information from the courthouse in Canton. The people there were very cooperative in finding and photocopying the estate papers of Halcut. We obtained*

*specific information that was most revealing as to the way they lived. We also visited Halcut's and Harriet's graves along with other family members in the cemetery in Sharon (a small community near Canton). The cemetery is well cared for and is adjacent to the Sharon Methodist Church which is still active. I hope that we can find Harriet C's maiden name. I suppose that no record has been found to date.*

*We then went to West Point and La Grange, Georgia. We found the Alford cemetery near West Point where Capt. Lodwick Alford, father of Julius Caesar, the War Horse of Troup is buried. As you know, he was Halcut's brother. Some of the graves are in a cow lot of a dairy. The graves are not fenced off from the dairy operation, and I know that they should be. Perhaps we can work with the owner and put a chain link fence around them. I'd like to know your feeling about it.*

*The Alford name is most evident in LaGrange. They have a beautiful city square with a statue of LaFayette in the center. A part of the inscription on a marker states that on motion of Julius C. Alford the town was named La Grange for LaFayette's ancestral home in France. LaFayette had been in the area a few years before. There is also an Alford street in front of the city library.*

*In Baltimore we had a good visit with Henry Alford and his father [AAFA 0057]. They are descended from Zadock (Ruby Heard's line). I'm sure you have this information now.*

*... As to the Burleson County History, I am enclosing pages 125 and 129. Catherine is responsible for the book. She wrote the topical history, arranged for publication, financing, selling, etc. Only a few are left. They are fast becoming collectors items.*

*I can help with one Alford obituary in the April issue, that of Bernice*

Holmes Alford. She was the widow of James Erwin Alford, born May 10, 1910, died July 16, 1954. His father was Richard Erwin Alford, whose father was Halcut, etc. He, James Erwin, was my first cousin.

We regret that we were not able to visit with you and with Wick Alford on our trip. Time and money stopped us, but we will do it at the first opportunity that we have.

I am accumulating considerable information on the Alford's. I will share anything that I have that you might want. Just let me know.

June 29, 1988 he wrote:

"I am enclosing papers from the courthouse in Canton, Miss. Ruby Heard directed us there. We were very fortunate in finding a real treasure house on Dr. Halcut Alford and family.

As you will see, Francis A. Alford was administrator Of his estate. He much have also been known as Frank. It is interesting to note that it took about nine years to close the estate.

Thanks for your last letter. I'll be sending more to you later. "

July 27, 1988 - Just a stick-up note:

"These papers are interesting since they give us some insight as to the way Dr. H. Alford and family lived. I thought you would want copies. "

Sept. 2, 1988 - Just a stick-up note:

"I am enclosing the History of Cheshire - Aldford, etc. and hope you will find it interesting. Received the

info on the Hitchcock-Alford chairs today. Will take some pictures and see if we can find something for an article. "

By the fall of 1988 D.L. had gone from frequent letters to frequent phone calls and when he had something to send it was accompanied with a stick-up note. He apologized because they would not be able to make the first AAFA meeting in Atlanta in October. He knew that those of us involved in that first meeting were a bit discourage because of the expected turnout of only about a dozen members and that we would be making a decision to try for a second meeting. He asked that word be conveyed to those in charge that if AAFA would schedule the second meeting in Texas that he would promise a very successful meeting. You can read the account of that meeting in AAFA ACTION, December 1989, Vol 11, No. 3. There were over 120 folks at the reception on Friday evening. Not only did D.L. stir up his branch of the Alford's, he had several others involved.

But his influence did not end there. At all the subsequent meetings one could see the Texas influence. In most cases the state hosting the meeting had the most members present but Texas was usually second in participation. On at least two occasions Texas had more members present than the host state. When we held the first meeting in Atlanta we had about 100 members and the top state in membership was Louisiana with 19 and Texas was second with 12. At the time of the second meeting in Houston we had about 250 members and Texas ranked first with 74 and Louisiana had dropped to second with 33. A study of

the membership and meeting attendance records has the finds D. L. Alford's "finger prints" everywhere.

D.L. was unable, because of health, to attend the 12th AAFA meeting in San Antonio celebrating our 1989 experience in Texas. Nevertheless, he made a major contribution to that meeting and did something that has never been done for an AAFA meeting before or after. He arranged for the dance orchestra of the Caldwell High School band to travel to San Antonio and to perform their big band sounds for the AAFA at our Saturday banquet. They selected and rehearsed tunes that they knew would be in taste for a bunch of "ole folks."

D.L. served AAFA as a member of the board of directors from 1990 through 1995. In 1991 and for several years there after AAFA experimented with the concept of having state chapters and D.L. served during that time as AAFA Vice-President, Texas Chapter.

To read more about D. L. Alford:

AAFA ACTION, December 1989, Vol. II No. 3, pp 3-10, *The Second Annual Meetingn of AAFA*  
AAFA ACTION, March 1992, Vol. IV No. 4, pp 44-45, *Visit to Sharon Methodist Cemetery*  
AAFA ACTION, Winter 1995, Vol. VII No. 3, pp 22-26, *The Alford's in Burleson County, Texas*

***Submitted by Ramona Alford Darden, AAFA #0715, Member AAFA Hall of Fame***

I was truly saddened to learn of DL's death even though he has been so near death for some time. At my first AAFA reunion in Decatur, AL, he and Catherine were the first members I met in the hotel restaurant at breakfast Friday morning before the meetings began. They were both such a gracious couple and so hospitable, I joined them for breakfast that morning, all the tables were full.

We soon found out that we had a Texas connection and one of my MUD board directors had just resigned to become the Mayor of Bryan. DL knew him very well. We did not have a lack for something to talk about, he and Catherine took me right under their wing, and they certainly started my beginning with AAFA with a very good impression.

I can think of no greater tribute to DL and Catherine than to remember how they inspired and encouraged AAFA. Make it a point to welcome new members and take them under your wing.

Ramona Alford Darden



**Catherine and D. L. Alford at the Saturday night banquet in Jackson, MS in 1991**



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Thursday, December 12, 2002

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He was born Jan. 24, 1915, the only son of Daniel Lee Alford, Sr., and Annie Klukan Alford in their home. He was truly a native son of Caldwell and of Texas. He was a fifth generation Texan and a descendant of Philip Bruce Scott, who came to Texas from Tennessee in 1831 to join Robertson's Colony in what is now Burleson County.

He attended the Caldwell public schools. Music was his earliest love. It remained one of his deepest interests throughout his life, and he was instrumental in forming a local youth or-



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See **ALFORD**, page 5A

# ALFORD

FROM PAGE

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He was the epitome of the family man. Family and friends said. On Dec. 26, 1939, he married Catherine Grace Guynes at the First Methodist Church in Franklin. They had two sons, Lee Alford, III and James Joseph Alford.

D.L. was a pillar of the business community in Caldwell and in Burleson County, and service to others was an invaluable part of his life. During World War II, D.L. served as a field director for the American Red Cross, stationed in Missouri and later in San Antonio.

In addition to the life insurance, D.L. and Catherine opened the Surrey Inn Motel and Restaurant in 1962.

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He was a charter member of the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce, having served as its president, as a member of the board of directors, and as chairman of its industrial committee for many years. He also served as a director of the East Texas Chamber of Commerce, of the Brazos Valley Development Council and as a 27 year alderman on the Caldwell City Council. One of his lifelong dreams was realized with the organization of the Burleson County Industrial Foundation. He served as the first chairman of the foundation.

D.L. was also a member of many professional organizations, of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and on the board of directors for the former Goodnight Memorial Hospital in Caldwell. He was a charter member of the Burleson County Historical Commission and of the Burleson County Historical Society.

Perhaps his deepest and longest standing affiliation was with the Rotary service organization, which works tirelessly to improve the quality of life in communities throughout the world. In fact, his friends and acquaintances affectionately dubbed him "Mr. Rotary." Over a period of years, he held a number of leadership positions in his local club, and in 1979 he was honored to serve as district governor of District 587, which encompasses much of central Texas. Thereafter, he continued to serve others through Rotary, holding various leadership positions on the local, state, national and international levels.

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D.L. will always be remembered for his strong Christian faith, his love and devotion to family, his neverending commitment to the City of Caldwell and to Burleson County and his dedicated adherence to the guiding principle of the Rotary organization, "Service above Self," family and friends said.

He was preceded in death by his wife of more than 60 years, Catherine Grace Guynes Alford.

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Lee Alford, III, and Mary Collerain Alford and James Joseph Alford and Kathy Burgess Alford, all of Caldwell; four grandsons and one great-granddaughter.



**STRICKLAND**  
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# The State of Texas House of Representatives

H.R. No. 787

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The passing of D. L. Alford, Jr., on December 9, 2002, at the age of 87, brought a great loss to the family and friends of this notable family man and civic leader, and it is indeed appropriate to honor his memory at this time; and

WHEREAS, A Caldwell native and fifth generation Texan, Mr. Alford was born January 24, 1915, to Daniel Lee Alford, Sr., and Annie Klukan Alford; he was a descendant of Philip Bruce Scott, who came to Texas from Tennessee in 1831 to join Robertson's Colony in what is now Burleson County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alford was a lifelong lover of music who attended Baylor University on a music scholarship after graduating from the Caldwell public school system; during his years at Baylor he was a member of the Golden Wave Band and formed Dan Alford and his Varsitonians, a popular dance orchestra that played throughout Texas for several years; and

WHEREAS, He entered the insurance business and later established his own underwriting company, D. L. Alford, Jr., Insurance; on December 26, 1939, he married the former Catherine Grace Guynes, who preceded him in death after more than 60 years of marriage; during World War II he served his fellow citizens as a field director for the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alford's civic endeavors included charter membership with the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce, which he served as president, board member, and industrial committee chairman, and the establishment of the Burleson County Industrial Foundation; he also was a director of the East Texas Chamber of Commerce and the Brazos Valley Development Council and was an alderman on the Caldwell City Council; and

WHEREAS, Affectionately known by friends as "Mr. Rotary," this esteemed gentleman held leadership positions with Rotary International on the local, state, national, and international levels; in 1979 he served as district governor of District 587, and throughout his long and productive tenure with the organization he worked tirelessly to aid those in need; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church of Caldwell and an associate member of First United Methodist Church of Caldwell, Mr. Alford was a deeply religious man whose faith, integrity, and generosity were equaled by few; his loss has left a void in the lives of those who knew and loved him, yet they can take solace in the fact that he lived a truly joyful and meaningful life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of D. L. Alford, Jr., and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his sons and daughters-in-law, Lee Alford III and Mary Collerain Alford and James Joseph Alford and Kathy Burgess Alford; to his four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter; and to the other relatives and many friends of this esteemed gentleman; and, be it further

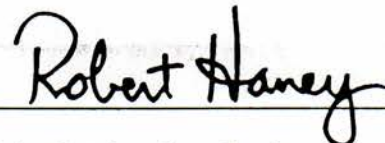
RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of D. L. Alford, Jr.

Cook of Colorado



Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 787 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 10, 2003.



Chief Clerk of the House