



## Mr. Elias "Alvin" O'Neal

May 6, 1950 - September 2, 2020

Mr. Elias "Alvin" O'Neal, 70, formerly of Peoria, IL, passed away at 2:34 am on Tuesday, September 2, 2020 at Kris-Leigh Assisted Living in Severna Park, Maryland.

Elias, affectionately known as Alvin, was born on May 6, 1950 in Peoria, IL to Wiley, Sr. and Magnolia (McPeace) O'Neal.

Alvin was an educator with the State of Maryland District Schools.

Alvin was a 1969 graduate of Spalding High School where he played and was an elite basketball player all four years under Coach Ron Patterson. Alvin attended Ball State in Muncie, Indiana, later getting his undergraduate and Master's Degrees from Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD. Alvin loved any kind of sports, but basketball was his love. He even playing basketball overseas. He was easy going and took his personality after his father, very jovial.

Alvin leaves to cherish his most precious memories three sisters, Ineal Ross of Elgin, IL, Viola O'Neal-South and Shirley Spence both of Peoria, IL and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends who loved him. He is proceeded in death by his parents; four brothers, Levi O'Neal, Elijah O'Neal, Wiley O'Neal, Jr. and Calvin O'Neal and five sisters, Mae O'Neal, Mary Carroll, Adele Thomas, Odessa Plumlee and Gladys Ware.

A Memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to your local Alzheimer's Association. Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at [SimonsMortuary.com](http://SimonsMortuary.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Elias "Alvin" O'Neal*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mr. Elias "Alvin" O'Neal*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *To the O'neal family. What a wonderful person and a great teammate . My sincere condolences for you loss.*

*I first played against Alvin when I was in the 8th grade in the diocese tournament. We lost of course but after the game I asked Alvin if he was going to Spalding. He said yes and I knew we would have something big coming for Spalding——and we did.*

*What a 4 year ride Alvin took the Irish on and I consider myself lucky enough to be his teammate.*

*It was so much fun to be on the court and around Alvin for those 4 years. What a great time we had especially our senior year and the ride to the state championship game.*

*I thought the games we played at the field house at Bradley were some of the best game Alvin played.He will always be part of the great history of Spalding basketball history.*

*My prayers are with the entire family  
Guard and teammate on the 69 state runner-up*

*Rick Schaidle*

**Rick Schaidle** - September 16, 2020 at 07:14 PM



“ *Zerlyna Burse-Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elias "Alvin" O'Neal*



**Zerlyna Burse-Taylor** - September 16, 2020 at 12:48 PM

AJ

“ My condolences to the O'Neal family on the death of Alvin. I was a teammate of Alvin's in 1969 when we finished 2nd in the Boys's Illinois State Basketball Tournament. Following is a copy of a tribute that I made to Alvin on the AOL SI 1969 Facebook site:

*As many of you know, Alvin O'Neal passed away on September 2, 2020. Like all of you, I was saddened by this news. Alvin was a great teammate. In spite of his incredible talent, he was a very unassuming guy. I would actually describe him as shy. I never saw him lose his temper on the court, although I do recall an incident in the hallways of SI where he had a minor altercation with another student who had a reputation as a bad guy. From what I remember it ended very quickly with the bad guy backing down. With his size and reach Alvin would not have been someone to mess with. I also remember us being in a tight game but I don't remember the opponent. We were just coming out of a timeout when Alvin came to me and said "get me the ball." Even though he was not cocky he knew how good he was. He was our horse. Without him the great season that we had, ending with our appearance in Champaign, would not have been possible. I lost touch with Alvin after we graduated but I continued to follow his career. He first went to Illinois and then transferred to Morgan State in Baltimore, MD. In 1974 Morgan State won the NCAA College Division National Championship. Alvin was a key member of that team. If you are interested in learning more, I'm going to attempt to attach several PDF files to this post that I obtain from the Baltimore Sun newspaper.*

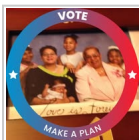
*(If you are interested in reading any of the three articles that I posted, the site is public so you can copy the following link into a browser:)*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/140762482205>

*Art Jenkins  
Guard on 1969 Spalding Basketball Team*

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**Art Jenkins** - September 16, 2020 at 02:15 AM



“ May your memories sustain you during this difficult time.



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**Evelyn Tate-Clayton** - September 14, 2020 at 06:55 PM

MP

“ *Mancy Pittman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elias "Alvin" O'Neal*



Mancy Pittman - September 14, 2020 at 12:04 PM

RV

“ *I was a year younger but Alvin was the nicest guy . Alvin was the greatest basketball player at Spalding and in College. He was a great guy.God Bless*

Rick Vespa - September 13, 2020 at 11:02 AM

CA

“ *My condolences to the O'Neill family I never forget the first time I met you Alvin you were too funny and you love my cooking Wiley told you you would like it again my condolences Carolyn*



Carolyn - September 12, 2020 at 07:39 PM

SS

“ *Salmena Smith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elias "Alvin" O'Neal*



Salmena Smith - September 12, 2020 at 08:32 AM