

## Obituary

Alicia Inez Bowler Lugo passed away on December 21, 2011, to be welcomed to glory by her parents, Hamlet Price Bowler and Inez Ethylyn Brown Bowler, along with her dear friend, Stephen D. Waters.

The eldest of two girls born to her proud parents on September 21, 1941 in Charlottesville, Virginia, Alicia attended Jackson P. Burley High School, and graduated from Hampton University. After college, Ms. Lugo went on to establish a distinguished career as an entrepreneur, activist, educator and community leader.

Ms. Lugo began her professional work as a teacher in the Charlottesville City School System, and has served as primary administrator of two major federally-funded skills training programs in the City: Central Virginia O.I.C., Inc., and the Drewary J. Brown Job Training Center. She owned and operated Rose Hill Market and Radio Station WUMX, MIX 107.5 FM in Charlottesville, the first minority-owned station in the Central Virginia area. In 1988, she created and served as Director of the TEENSIGHT Project, a program of FOCUS Women's Resource Center. In 2006, she was promoted to the position of Associate Director of FOCUS, and retired as Executive Director.

Long active in community and civic affairs, Ms. Lugo served eleven years on the Charlottesville School Board including five years as its Chairman, and on the Boards of Directors of Piedmont Virginia Community College, the Advisory Board of Habitat for Humanity, Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center, Region 10 Mental Health Board, Planned Parenthood of the Piedmont, the AIDS Support Group, the Charlottesville Electoral Board, and the Quality Community Council. She also served on the Board of Commissioners of the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Ms. Lugo is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a member of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Interfraternal Council.

Named 1978's "Woman of the Year" by the Virginia Women's Forum, she was also honored as the recipient of the 1988 "Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award" by the Alliance for Interfaith Ministries in Charlottesville. The March of Dimes named her one of three "Outstanding Women of Achievement" in 1990, and the Skyline District Girl Scouts of America honored her as a "Woman of Distinction" in 1992. In March 1998, she was honored by Rotary Clubs International with the "Jean Harris Award" for her contributions to women and their families. In August 2001, and January 2002, Ms. Lugo was recognized by the Charlottesville City Council for conducting highly successful Summer Youth Employment Programs under the auspices of the Quality Community Council. In March 2002, she was honored at the FOCUS Women's Month Luncheon for meritorious service to FOCUS and TEENSIGHT from August, 1988 to March, 2002. In June, 2002, Alicia Bowler Lugo's name was added to the plaques that line the Drewary J. Brown Memorial Bridge on West Main Street after being named a "Community Bridge Builder" by the Charlottesville City Council for her efforts throughout the years to improve relations between people of all races in the Charlottesville area. In 2010, she was named a "Keeper of the Village" by the African American Cultural Arts Festival Committee. In her later years, Ms. Lugo continued to be a fierce warrior for social justice and equality; most recently admonishing City Council in November 2011 not to continue treating the African American Community as if it were "cellophane," quoting the famous song from the musical *Chicago*.

Ms. Lugo leaves to mourn her passing a beloved daughter, Angel Nichelle Lugo of Charlottesville, Virginia; a sister, Patricia Edwards; brother-in-law, Alvin Edwards; and niece, Rachel Edwards, all of Charlottesville, Virginia; and a host of cousins, friends, colleagues and former students. The family asks that we remember Ms. Lugo's courage, faith and ability to love others above herself, and though her time here with us has past, her journey with The Father continues through eternity.



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February 15, 2012

Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent  
Albemarle County Schools  
401 McIntire Road  
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Dear Dr. Moran,

I am writing in support of the Burley Varsity Club's wish to honor Ms. Alicia B. Lugo by naming a corridor at J. P. Burley Middle School in her memory.

Ms. Lugo was very proud of her years as a "Burley Bear," as was her mother, Ms. Inez Bowler. I was often privileged to hear her recollections of her years at Burley, and knew she was very proud of the school as it is today, and of the way your office has partnered with the Burley Varsity Club to share its rich history with the community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and all you do on behalf of the Burley Varsity Club.

Sincerely,

Karen C. Waters  
Executive Director

cc: J. Hollins



Sherman R. White, Sr.  
221 Michie Drive, Apt. 94A  
Charlottesville, VA 22901

January 26, 2012

Dr. Pam Moran, Superintendent  
Albemarle County Public Schools  
Albemarle County Office Building  
401 McIntire Road  
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Dr. Moran,

I write this letter to you for your support in having the Albemarle County School Board and others approve a request from the Burley Varsity Club to name the hallway at Burley Middle School honoring the then segregated graduating classes of Jackson P. Burley High School from 1951-1967 in honor of the late Ms. Alicia Bowler Lugo.

As you are aware, Ms. Lugo was an icon in Charlottesville's Black Community. A distinguished alumni of then Burley High School, this honoree acquired her college education at historic Hampton Institute now Hampton University. Among other accomplishments, Ms. Lugo was an outstanding teacher in the Charlottesville School system, an articulate and active community leader and entrepreneur.

Simply put, I was astounded at the number of community-based organizations she led or was associated with, most notably, chairman of the Charlottesville School Board. I had the great pleasure and honor - in the early seventies - of working with her as a member of the Board of Directors of O.I.C. (Opportunities Industrialization Centers) of which she was the Executive Director. Note: Central Virginia O.I.C. was the local branch of the National O.I.C. organization dedicated to the education and employment of the undereducated, underemployed and unemployed.

The list is endless... Ms. Lugo was truly a champion of the less fortunate, unemployed, and underemployed citizens of this community. I am saying all of this in an effort to gain your support to award her this honor - the naming of the Burley Hall of Fame - posthumously.

Enough said....

Respectfully submitted,

Sherman R. White, Sr.

January 30, 2012  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

Dr. Pam Moran  
Superintendent  
Albemarle County Schools  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

Dear Dr. Moran:

My sister, Alicia Lugo, was a champion of public education. She loved young people, and believed that their lives would be improved by receiving the best education possible.

She learned to be a leader in the halls of Jackson P. Burley High School. I think it most appropriate that she would be memorialized there.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia B. Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patricia" being more prominent and the last name "Edwards" following in a similar style.

Patricia B. Edwards