**Melvin “Skip” Alston**

**Melvin “Skip” Alston** is a native of Durham, North Carolina. He was educated in the Durham City School System and continued his education at North Carolina Central University, with a major in **Business Administration.**

**Skip** Alston moved to Greensboro, North Carolina in 1979, where he was first employed with Metropolitan life Insurance Company as a Life Insurance Salesman.

**In June 1982,** at the age of 25, Skip Alston ventured into another career. He started **The Alston Realty Group, Inc.,** a Real estate Firm, specializing in Property management and Real Estate sales. **The Alston Realty Group, Inc.** currently employs 4 Licensed Real Estate Brokers, 16 full time employees and is currently managing real Estate properties in the Greensboro area which is valued at over 40 million dollars.

**Skip Alston** is also the founder and president of several other successful businesses in the Greensboro area, such **as Alston and Alston, LLC,** specializes in providing political consultant services and residential and multifamily investment services. **East Market Street Square, Inc.**, specializing in purchasing commercial real estate for development and renovation.

**Some of Skip Alston’s** former business ventures include, Skip’s All Beef Hotdogs, Inc., a Hotdog business he started in 1998 and The Bar-B-Que Palace, a Soul Food Restaurant he started in 2006. He recently sold both restaurant businesses in 2007.

**Skip Alston** was elected to the Guilford County Board of Commissioners in November 1992 for a four-year term and re-elected in 1996 to another four-year term with 74% of the General Election vote.

**Because of his outstanding** leadership and service on the Guilford County Board of Commissioners, Skip Alston was re-elected in the year 2000 unopposed.

**On December 2, 2002 Skip Alston** was elected Chairman of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners by his fellow Commissioners, making him the first African American in the history of Guilford County to hold that position.

**In 2004 Skip Alston** was re-elected again for another four year term on the Guilford County Board of Commissioners unopposed and re-elected again in 2008 winning over 70% of the primary vote with no opposition in the November election. On December 1, 2008 **Skip Alston** was again elected Chairman of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners by his fellow Commissioners and was elected as Chairman again in December 2009, 2010, 2011, and served as Chairman of the Board until December 2012, when he retired as a member of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners after serving 20 years.

**Skip Alston’s second tenure** as a Guilford Cunty Commissioner started in May 2017, when he won a special election to serve out the unexpired term of Commissioner Ray Trapp. Skip was re-elected again in May 2018 to serve the remaining two years of Commissioner Ray Trapp’s term, winning 70% of the primary vote, with no opposition in the November General Election.

**Skip** was reelected again in November 2020 to the Guilford County Board of Commissioners for a four year term. On December 7, 2020, Skip was again elected Chairman of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners and elected again as Chairman in 2021 and 2022 for an unprecedented 8th time.

**Other leadership positions include, in August 1994, Skip Alston** was unanimously elected as the President of the North Carolina Association of Black County Officials for a two-year term. He was re-elected again by a unanimous vote in August 1996, for another 2-year term.

**Skip Alston** also served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Black County Officials for four years in the capacity of Treasurer for the Association.

**In October 1993,** Skip Alston was appointed by Lt. Governor Dennis Wicker to the North Carolina Housing Partnership Commission and in May of 1994 he was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to serve on the North Carolina Health Reform Advisory Committee and in October 1996 he was again appointed by Governor Hunt to serve on the Task Force for Church Burnings within our State.

**In February 2001 Skip Alston** was appointed by Governor Mike Easley to serve on the N.C. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission for a three-year term. In December 2003 **Skip Alston** was appointed by the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives to the North Carolina Real Estate Commission, which governs over 125,000 Real Estate Professionals throughout the State of North Carolina and in June of 2007 he was elected Chairman of the North Carolina Real Estate Commission by a unanimous vote and in June 2008 he was again re-elected Chairman by another unanimous vote.

**Skip Alston’s** civic involvement include: Former President of the Greensboro Branch NAACP, 1991-1993, First-Vice President, North Carolina State Conference of Branches of the NAACP, 1987-1996 and a Member of the NAACP National Board of Trustees, 1987-2006.

**Skip Alston** served as a member and Chairman of the Greensboro ABC Board from, 1987-1993 and served as a Guilford County Commissioner Liaison on the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors from 2002 - 2004.

**Skip Alston** is a former President of the North Carolina NAACP State Conference serving in that position for nine years. Under his leadership the North Carolina NAACP State Conference became the largest State Conference of all seven states in the Southeast Region. He was named NAACP State Conference President of the year in 2005 during the Regional Convention in Orlando, FL.

**Because of Skip Alston’s strong** and aggressive leadership within the NAACP on a local, State and National level over 25 years, he was elected to a three-year term on the NAACP National Board of Directors in July 2001 without opposition and was re-elected again in July 2004 for another three-year term without opposition.

**Skip Alston** also served as a National Board member of the National Action Network, for four years, he was nominated by the Reverend Al Sharpton in 2008.

**Skip Alston** is a fully paid Diamond Life Member of the NAACP, which is the highest individual membership level in the organization and a Life Member of the National Action Network.

**Skip Alston** is the Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors for Sit In Movement, Inc. a nonprofit Corporation formed for the purpose of purchasing and renovating the Historical Woolworth Building in downtown Greensboro into an **International Civil Rights Center and Museum**. The Museum opened February 1, 2010.

**Skip Alston** is a recipient of the **Order of the Long Leaf Pine,** the highest honor given to a citizen by the Governor of North Carolina. **Skip** was inducted into the Dudley High School hall of Distinction to honor his support of Dudley High School.

**Skip** was also inducted into Phi Beta Gamma at North Carolina A&T State University. He became a Prince Hall Thirty-Third Degree Mason on October 13, 2013.

**Skip Alston** is a faithful member for over 44 years of St. James Baptist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is married to the former Gwendolyn Wade, who is Vice President of The Alston Realty Group, Inc. and a Licensed Real Estate Broker. They have two sons, DeSean Alston age 41, who is also a Licensed Real Estate Broker working with the family business and Ryan Alston age 32, who is the President of A Plus Contracting Services, Inc. and is a North Carolina Licensed Real Estate Broker.

Skip is also the proud Papa of two Granddaughters ages 8 years old and 3 years old, their names are Nyla Alston and Ariella Alston.