

Greetings, Alumni.

I pray that you and your family are doing well.

As I remember walking the halls of W. A. Pattillo School never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be addressing you as the Interim President of the W. A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association, Inc. Even when I was made aware of the Association several years ago, the events that I have attended over the years, and eventually holding office on the Association's Board, did I ever think it would lead to this. It only goes to reaffirm that it is not our will, but God's will be done in all things—even in this.

In the future, whenever I reflect on my life, this will truly be one of the highlights of the things I may achieve. I do not take this position lightly nor have any doubts about the time and effort it will take to continue the excellent work of those who held this title before me.

My goal and vision are to help ensure that the legacy of this great Association continues long after any of us can contribute physically or mentally to its operations. That is reality. The foundation has been laid. It is strong, firm, solid, and unshakable. But to survive we must build on it. We must understand that to continue thriving we must keep up with the times. This means being open to change and modification where necessary. In personnel, technology, and our way of thinking. Creative and innovative ideas must be embraced. New and younger generations must become inclusive. Not just as members of the Association but afforded the opportunity to serve as an Officer, Director, or Chairperson.

President Emeritus, Dr. Fred Wood, Jr., stated at the 2023 Reunion Gala that “if you attended Pattillo just one year, that you are a part of its legacy and history.” So, it gives me great pleasure to announce that the Board of Directors voted unanimously to revise the Bylaws of the Association to afford the Classes of 1974-1976 all rights and privileges to become members and hold office in the Association. Members of those classes are now serving as Officers, Directors, and Chairpersons. I now challenge other members of those classes to step up to the plate and get on board. Reach out to your peers that you are still connected with and encourage them to do the same. A lot of times people become a part of something because they are asked to do so by someone they know and trust.

There is something for everyone to do in the Association. I believe when people want to work, find something for them to do. Share your God-given talents to further the Purpose, Goals and Objectives of the Association. Visit our website and review the several Committees that serve the Association and choose one to join. Help continue to fund this organization by donations and becoming members.

It is my great honor and privilege to serve as the Interim President of the Association. Please feel free to share your thoughts, ideas, recommendations and even criticism (constructive) with me at pattillo.ipckd@gmail.com.

God bless you all, take care and be safe. Thank you.

- God gives us the strength and courage to handle change, so there is no need to try to fight it or avoid it.
- Remember, God does not change because life changes. He will continue to be with us and see us through.
- Change can be a lot and very overwhelming. Rest in God's peace anyway. No need to get ourselves worked up.
- Be aware of how we perceive the change. Focus on believing in God's promises, not in fear, weakness, and possible failures.
- Change often does not affect the end goal; it brings us closer to it, even if it doesn't look like we thought it would.
- We can never go wrong with putting our hope in God! Trust Him with our life. (*Jeremiah 29:11*)

By Chyna Nicole