

## “Tall Paul” Alexander Collection (AC155)

### ***Introduction:***

The “Tall Paul” Alexander Collection highlights through numerous photographs, letters of recognition, pins, and newspaper articles the life and career of “Tall Paul” Alexander, a beloved doorman for over 45 years at the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center and former semi-professional basketball player of the Harlem Comedy Kings.

### ***Descriptive Summary:***

Creator: “Tall Paul” Alexander

Title: AC155: “Tall Paul” Alexander Collection

Date Range: 1992 - 2016

Size: 1.667 linear feet (1 box) & [OS]

Collection Number: AC155

### ***Donor Information:***

Found In Collection

### ***Citation Note:***

“Tall Paul” Alexander Collection (AC155), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri

### ***Administrative Information:***

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted

### ***Biographical Sketch***

Paul “Tall Paul” Alexander was born in 1949 in Kansas City, Missouri. He attended Central High School, where he played basketball and was on the state championship team in 1966. After graduating in 1967, he joined the Navy during the Vietnam War. While in the service, he continued to play basketball, earning accolades as a two-time all-Navy center. When Alexander’s time in the Navy concluded in 1969, he played basketball in other capacities. He tried out for the

NBA's San Diego Rockets (now the Houston Rockets) but did not make the team. He ended up playing for the Harlem Comedy Kings (an offshoot of the Harlem Globetrotters) that same year before coming back to Kansas City. Upon returning to Kansas City, Alexander worked for Ford at their Claycomo assembly plant until the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center hired him as a doorman when the hotel opened in 1973. For over 45 years, he greeted politicians, athletes, musicians, and ordinary people visiting the area. Alexander retired in 2019 and remains a renowned member of the Kansas City community alongside his wife Anne Motley-Alexander.

### **Series 1: Photographs**

This series features a variety of photographs of Tall Paul by himself and posing with guests staying at the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center. The photographs feature famous athletes, entertainers, politicians, and businessmen, along with individuals and families. Photocopies are numbered 1-6, 16, 34, and 35.

### **Series 2: Business Card**

This series features a Westin Kansas City at Crown Center business card belonging to Tall Paul.

### **Series 3: Write-up in *Star Magazine***

This series features a write-up of Tall Paul in the *Star Magazine* section of *The Kansas City Star*, dated January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1992.

### **Series 4: Certificates & Letters of Recognition**

This series features a Certificate of Appreciation that Alexander received in 2001 from the circuit court of Jackson County, Missouri for his time served as a juror. It also includes two letters of recognition that he received, one from Mayor Kay Barnes in November 2006 acknowledging three decades of service as a doorman at the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center and another from state senator Yvonne Wilson of the 9<sup>th</sup> District in October 2007 acknowledging Tall Paul Day.

### **Series 5: Pins**

This series includes three pins acknowledging Tall Paul Day. One pin is undated while the other two are dated October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

### **Series 6: Framed Images & Poster Board**

This series has five items, including two framed items and three items on poster board. Of the two framed items, one is an undated photograph of the Westin Kansas City (hotel) at Crown Center with an assortment of signatures from other employees wishing him well in retirement. The other framed item is a reproduction of a 2006 article in *The Kansas City Star* about the resolution that was passed to honor Tall Paul Day. The first poster board is from 2006 from the first Tall Paul Day. The second is a blown-up reproduction of photograph number 18 from Series 1 of the collection on poster board. The final poster board item is a six-foot tall cutout of Tall Paul smiling in his doorman attire.

### ***Scope & Content Note:***

[OS] indicates oversized materials which have been removed from the collection and placed in...

### ***Collection Inventory:***

#### **Series 1: Photographs**

f. 1 Photographs, 1992 – 2016 (Numbered 1-47)

#### **Series 2: Business Card**

f. 2 Business Card, n.d.

#### **Series 3: Write-up in *The Kansas City Star***

f. 3 Write-up in *Star Magazine* section of *The Kansas City Star*, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1992

#### **Series 4: Certificates & Letters of Recognition**

f. 4 Certificates & Letters of Recognition, 2001-2007

- a. Certificate of Appreciation from the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri for his services as a juror, 2001

- b. Resolution No. 061220 signed by Mayor Kay Barnes honoring and recognizing Alexander's three decades of service in hospitality, 2006
- c. Congratulatory letter from state senator Yvonne Wilson of the 9<sup>th</sup> District acknowledging Tall Paul Day, 2007

### Series 5: Pins

- f. 5 Pins, 2007-2009
  - a. Tall Paul Day Pin, n.d.
  - b. Tall Paul Day Pin, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007
  - c. Tall Paul Day Pin, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### Series 6: Framed Images & Poster Board

- f. 6 Tall Paul Day signage, 2006
- f. 7 Photograph of the Westin Hotel at Crown Center, n.d. (framed)
- f. 8 Tall Paul Day article in *The Kansas City Star*, 2006 (framed)
- f. 9 Blown-up reproduction of photograph, n.d. [OS]
- f. 10 Cutout of Tall Paul, n.d. [OS]

### Processed by Andy MacKay, March 2026

### Sources:

Newsroom, FOX 4. 2016. "Happy Tall Paul Day: Celebrating One Man's 43 Years of Bringing Hospitality to Kansas City." FOX 4 Kansas City WDAF-TV | News, Weather, Sports. October 26, 2016. <https://fox4kc.com/news/happy-tall-paul-day-celebrating-one-mans-43-years-of-bringing-hospitality-to-kansas-city/>.

Penn, Steve. "'Tall Paul' is highly treasured." *Kansas City Star, The (MO)*, August 26, 2003: B1. *NewsBank: America's News – Historical and Current*. <https://infoweb-newsbank.com.kclibrary.idm.oclc.org/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/0FD2EF53E5258773>.

"Obits." *The Kansas City Star*, July 21, 1995: C4. *NewsBank: America's News – Historical and Current*. <https://infoweb-newsbank-com.kclibrary.idm.oclc.org/apps/news/document-view?p=AMNEWS&docref=news/0EAF41EDED83335>. ??????

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<https://www.facebook.com/tallpaul.alexander/>.