



Woodford R. "Woody" Porter Jr

March 24, 1947 - June 24, 2019

Woodford R. "Woody" Porter, Jr., 72, passed away peacefully Monday, June 24, 2019.

Woody was the Owner and CEO of A.D. Porter & Sons Funeral Home, one of Louisville's longest operating privately owned and operated African American Funeral Homes. Woody also established a second location, A.D. Porter & Sons-Southeast in 2009.

Woody served on a number of civic boards and business groups including: member and Vice President of One West, Inc., Board member of the Louisville Urban League, Life Member NAACP, Ye Ole Esquire Club, J.B.B. Delphi Club, Inc., Vice President, Funeral Directors Vault and Crematory, LTD, former board member of Kentucky Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, Chairman and the Falls City Funeral Directors Association.

Woody was a member of St. Stephen Church and was a Navy Veteran of the Vietnam War.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harriett and Woodford R. Porter, Sr. sister, Ferda Porter; daughters, Alysia "Dani" Porter and Alexis D. Porter.

He is survived by his wife, Suzanne Kellar Porter; children, Hamilton Chase Porter (Monica),

Woodford R. Porter, III "Trey", Christian Bryant and Whitney Sweeney-Martin (Rodrick);

Siblings, Sharon Porter Robinson, Marie E. Porter, Harriett "Ellie" Billops (Jerry); grandchildren,

Nyla Porter, Ariana Porter, Trevor Porter, London Sweeney, Keyon Bryant, Jay McAfee,
and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and countless colleagues and friends.

Funeral services will be held 11am Wednesday, July 3, 2019 at St. Stephen Church, 1018 S. 15th Street.

Visitation will be Tuesday, July 2, 2019 from 10am – 3pm at A.D. Porter & Sons Funeral Home, 1300 W. Chestnut St. and from 5pm-8pm at St. Stephen Church, 1018 S. 15th St.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that contributions be made to One West, 2028 W. Broadway Suite 104, Louisville, KY 40203 and the Woodford R. Porter, Jr. scholarship fund at Simmons College of Kentucky, 1000 S. 4th St., Lou. KY 40203.

Cemetery Details

Cave Hill Cemetery

Louisville, KY 40206

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 2. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (ET)

A. D. Porter and Sons Funeral Home - Downtown
1300 West Chestnut Street
Louisville, KY 40203
(502) 587-9678
a.d.portersoutheast@gmail.com
<https://adporters.com/>

Visitation

JUL 2. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

St Stephen Church
1018 So. 15th St.
Louisville, KY 40210

Celebration of Life

JUL 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Stephen Church
1018 So. 15th St.
Louisville, KY 40210

Tribute Wall



“ I will miss his "happy" and great humor! My dear friend is finally free! Deepest sympathy to his son's/ sister's /family. May he rest in eternal peace 🙏🌹 Go Cards!

Imelda Spalding - July 18, 2019 at 08:04 PM

FN

“ Serviced with Woody on State Board, very nice person and well liked.

Frank Nelson

frank nelson - July 17, 2019 at 08:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Gretchen Peterson Milliken - July 07, 2019 at 10:27 PM

CB

“ my condolences for you and your family.

Carolyn Binkley



CB Binkley - July 03, 2019 at 01:18 PM

RW

“ *Roberta Williams and Henry Townes, Jr. send condolences to the family of "Woody" Porter, Jr. He was a wonderful person and admired for his contributions to the community as well as his commitment to family and friends. he will be missed/*

Roberta Williams - July 03, 2019 at 10:59 AM

VR

“ *I will always remember our great conversations, laughter and sharing tears of grief. But I also know you are resting with our Lord and savior. See you soon my brother, sleep peacefully. VAL*

Valarie Roberts-Allen - July 03, 2019 at 08:48 AM

SV

“ *Sharon,
Charlie and I are so saddened to hear about the loss of your brother Woody. He sounds like a very special person. He would have to be if he is your brother. Our condolences to his family. He was so young!
Hope you are doing well. Please send us a note if you get a chance. I am on Facebook under Sheila Platt Vice. Charlie and I are busy but doing well. Take care of yourself.
Love ya! Charlie and Sheila*

Sheila Vice - July 02, 2019 at 06:31 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Woodford R. "Woody" Porter Jr.*



July 02, 2019 at 12:49 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Woodford R. "Woody" Porter Jr.*



July 02, 2019 at 12:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Woodford R. "Woody" Porter Jr.*



July 02, 2019 at 11:34 AM



“ *The Price family offers our condolences in the passing of dear Mr. Woody Porter. Who in some ways feels like a loss in our own family. With about all our families funeral services have been by your sympathetic funeral home. Especially when it comes to my Mother who passed 3 years ago, Delrita Price. This might sound strange but it wasn't a real home going service unless i saw Woody Porter! His command of affairs and his sympathetic look gave great comfort to all <3 Gods great grace be multiplied to the family. May the love of a whole community bring healing to you all. The Porters who have brought such comfort to us! Prayerfully yours.....*

Beshaunha c Price - July 02, 2019 at 01:26 AM

KP

“ Charles and I have so many “Woody” memories. My favourites are from our trip to Rome. Imagine Woody at the Vatican! We had such a great time on the cruise with Woody and Suzanne. I can still hear that belly laugh. My favourite night was toga night; Woody wears a mean toga!

Rest in peace, my friend. Our lives were richer because you were here.

*Love,
Kapauner Lewis, Charles Prince
Anchorage, Kentucky*

Kapauner Lewis and Charles Prince - July 01, 2019 at 09:45 PM

ST

“ Shirley Ison-Newsome, Dallas, Texas purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Woodford R. "Woody" Porter Jr.



Shirley Ison-Newsome, Dallas, Texas - July 01, 2019 at 01:10 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Woodford R. "Woody" Porter Jr.



July 01, 2019 at 12:38 PM

JC

“ *My name is Joe Corradino. I knew Woody years ago. I respected and appreciated him deeply. My condolences to his family. He will be missed.*

Joe Corradino

Joe Corradino - July 01, 2019 at 12:29 PM

JT

We are sorry for your loss woody was a great man in the community bless your family

James and Mary Taylor - July 02, 2019 at 05:55 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Woodford R. "Woody" Porter Jr.*



July 01, 2019 at 11:46 AM

PB

“ *To the family, I'm so sorry for your loss.
Woody was just a nice kind person to whom ever he met.
I remember our families together at Broadway Temple Church.
Thank you for taking care of my mom, and brother like you did
You did a beautiful job sending them home to the lord.
You will be missed.
Phyllis Thomas Bell
Kenny Thomas (brother)
Debbie Thomas (sister law)*

phyllis bell - July 01, 2019 at 11:19 AM

LM

I'm at a loss for words come to all the family and friends, God bless you all.

LynnDell Mcwhorter - July 01, 2019 at 05:13 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Woodford R. "Woody" Porter Jr.*



June 30, 2019 at 05:57 PM

WC

“ *Mr.Porter Jr. I am sorry for you had to leave us my family has been apart of your family for many years .Rest In Peace Drake Family In Griffytown Ky .Thank You!*

Wanda Carter - June 30, 2019 at 05:43 PM

AK

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with Woody Porter's wife Suzanne and his entire family!! Woody was a wonderful man and always greeted you with a smile!! I didn't know him very well, but always thought him to be a very loving and friendly person!! The good Lord has taken him home to join his two beautiful daughters that preceded him in death!! May he find eternal peace in the loving arms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!!*

Angela Kendrick - June 30, 2019 at 04:59 PM

TR

“ *Thereaa Russell lit a candle in memory of Woodford R. "Woody" Porter Jr*



Thereaa Russell - June 29, 2019 at 10:47 PM

SD

“ *Prayers and sympathy to you. Although I have not seen Woody in years, I remember his caring and concern for others. Be Blessed.*

Sandra Tilford Demaree

Sandra Demaree - June 29, 2019 at 02:14 PM

VT

“ *Valerie Trowel lit a candle in memory of Woodford R. "Woody" Porter Jr*



Valerie Trowel - June 29, 2019 at 02:10 PM

RS

“ I truly appreciate the professional services Woody provided to my family(Bethel and Wheeler) over the years. I admire him for being such a hospitable man and willing to dialogue with you at any time. I will always remember Woody singing in the tenor section of Keith Hunter & Witness for Christ Choir. He truly enjoyed lifting up the name of the Lord in song.

My condolences to the Porter family and to the A. D. Porter Funeral Home Staff. Precious memories, how they linger and how they ever flood our souls. It is these precious memories of Woodford R. "Woody" Porter, Jr. that will keep him alive in our hearts for years to come.

Rev. Justin M. Shamell - June 28, 2019 at 09:19 PM

BS

“ Benita Shobe purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Woodford R. "Woody" Porter Jr.



Benita Shobe - June 28, 2019 at 09:14 PM

TW

“ Terry L Woodson lit a candle in memory of Woodford R. "Woody" Porter Jr



Terry L Woodson - June 28, 2019 at 07:27 PM

AS

“ Thank you Woody for being the loving soul that you are and being so much of a part of the Snow family. Enjoy John and Helen and give 'em a big hug from all of us down here. They will certainly enjoy seeing you! While you will missed so much by so many, your legacy of love, kindness, and hilarious ways will be carried in my heart and always inspire me to be a better fellow man. Godspeed.

Ahtitya Snow - June 28, 2019 at 01:16 PM

MS

“ Woody and I were born into the generational love shared between the Porter and Stuart families which dates back to the 1930's when my uncle Joe Stuart attended Lincoln Ridge and Kentucky State. Mr. Porter (Woody's father attended Indiana University) and both families welcomed each other's sons into their homes. The Porters were instrumental in Joe Stuart going to embalming school and eventually founding Stuart Mortuary in Indianapolis in 1948. Woody and I connected at family friends, Dan & Inez Farris' home. We both enjoyed her chicken and dumplings, a Sunday dinner favorite. Woody encouraged me to follow my father, Charles Stuart, into funeral service. We bonded sharing the similarities of working in family business, and working with the fathers who mentored us under their direct tutelage. I will miss MY FRIEND, yet find joy in knowing that he's at rest and with those he loved most and so sorely longed to see.

Mara Stuart - June 27, 2019 at 11:22 PM

DH

“ My condolences to "Woody's" family. Praying God's peace that surpasses all understanding comfort you all at this time.

Dale (Mosley) Hollingworth - June 27, 2019 at 10:21 PM

MT

I am sending my condolences to the family and sending prayers up to all.

Mildred Townsend - June 28, 2019 at 08:15 PM

DH

Back in the late 70s I met Mr. Porter at the Kentucky School of Mortuary Science. He graduated ahead of me. He spoke kindly about his family and the services they provided to all families no matter the status of those families. He gave some of us a tour of their facility and often spoken highly of of Grandmother. From what I read about the late Mr. Porter, Jr. he was and is well liked by many, friends to the business arena and was a silent player in all aspects. My deepest condolences to the Porter Family and their Staff. Roberts' Removals and Mortuary Transport Services, LLC, Kennesaw, Georgia

Deacon Robert W. Henry - June 29, 2019 at 06:58 PM

AA

“*Rest In Peace my friend. I have many memories when I lived in Louisville of our conversations when we say each other and our many meetings and social gatherings of Ye Ole Esquire Club. My love and prayers go out to the family.*

Alfred Adams

Alfred Adams - June 27, 2019 at 08:45 PM

HC

“*I'm sorry to hear about Woody. I have fond memories of him. My heartfelt condolences to the Porter family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Henry Vinson, JD, CFSP



Henry Vinson JD, CFSP - June 27, 2019 at 08:25 PM

RB

“ Woody Was like that Big Brother you Always wish had.. He had a wonderful Spirit You genuinely Care for everyone he came Upon... His business was his Life. And he Made everyone he served fill Comfort and Peace in there time of need.. He took great Of everyone in my passed that have gone Over to the other side.. Me and my Family Will always be Truly Grateful for his kindness Snd friendship. So I say You now Rest My Brother... And Thank You for all you Were to us all... You will be Truly Missed.

Robin Booker - June 27, 2019 at 03:34 PM

MA

“ Woody was a great friend and business man, he and his staff did an amazing job with the arrangements for my Mother and for that I am truly grateful to him and his staff; he was someone who would talk with you and share with you and I will truly miss him and his love for every family that he served....he did it as if it was his own family...Louisville has lost one gentle giant, a man who loved his city and he invested in the future of Louisville through his giving...Rest on Woody, take your reward you have surely earned it

Michael W. Anderson and family

Michael W Anderson - June 27, 2019 at 02:00 PM

BW

Condolences to the Porter Family and friends. Woody was a true servant of the people of Louisville and Kentucky. When occasions warranted, Woody, his family, and staff gave my family members and friends the utmost in professional services and kindness. I am sure Heaven is rejoicing as Woody is welcomed Home.

*With sympathy,
Bartina Wilkins*

Bartina Wilkins - June 27, 2019 at 05:20 PM

PA

“ *I wish the Porter family GOD'S AMAZING GRACE and PEACE. You are in my prayers.*

Phoebe Ali

Phoebe Ali - June 27, 2019 at 11:48 AM

RB

“ *Robin Brown lit a candle in memory of Woodford R. "Woody" Porter Jr*



Robin Brown - June 27, 2019 at 10:45 AM

DM

“ *Living in Dallas, it seems the only time we would see each other was on sad occasions; however, his warm greetings and sincere friendship made those times less stressful. Rest in peace my friend!*

David Mickens

David Mickens - June 27, 2019 at 09:40 AM



“ *I remember when you walked through the doors of the funeral home Mr. Porter would greet you with a smile and strongest hand shake that made you feel so welcome even you didn't feel like it was a funeral home. Rest in peace Woody and to the Family you all continue to be blessed in The Lord.*

Rosezetter Mask - June 27, 2019 at 08:56 AM



Condolences to the family. Woody will be missed.

Leanna. Whitney - June 29, 2019 at 07:26 PM



“ *I grew up on 45 and Grand. My grandparents/parents/ siblings & I knew knew the Porters. Like losing a family member*

Michael McCrary - June 26, 2019 at 10:30 PM



“ *Kae Marie, Kala and Kelly*



Kae Marie - June 26, 2019 at 09:05 PM



“ *Suzanne and Family,*
We extend our deepest condolences to you
and your family on the passing of Woody.
Please accept our heartfelt sympathy for your
loss. May the abundance of prayers and
thoughts comfort you during this difficult time,
today and forever.
Sincerely,
Cedric C. Burnam and Family



Cedric Burnam - June 26, 2019 at 07:18 PM

TL

My Condolences to the Porter family!

Toni Jones Livers - June 27, 2019 at 01:27 PM

RT

"Mr. Porter would always greet me with the best hugs! Always
Professional, Kind, and Attentive to all the families he served!

My Prayers for the Porter Family. Rest Well Mr. Porter!

Sincerely,

Rev. Ton'ya M. Triplett

Rev. Ton'ya M. Triplett - June 27, 2019 at 03:13 PM

SC

My condolences, prayers, and God's blessings to the Porter family.
Sandra Vaughn Cole

Sandra Cole - June 27, 2019 at 05:57 PM