



# James Porter

JUL 7, 1941 - JUL 21, 2013



Scan to Visit

*Rader*  
FUNERAL HOMES  
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## **James Porter**

JUL 7, 1941 - JUL 21, 2013

**A** Memorial Service for former Rusk County Judge James Berry Porter of Henderson will be held at 10:30 on July 24, 2013, at First Presbyterian Church, Henderson, 311 South High at Fair Park. Visitation will be Tuesday, 6:30 to 8:00 at Rader Funeral Home. The Reverend Candice Klein, pastor, will officiate the Celebration of Life Service. A family graveside service will be held in Oakhill Methodist cemetery under the direction of Rader Funeral Home.

James Berry Porter was born in Henderson on July 7, 1941, and died on July 21, 2013, at the age of 72. He was preceded in death by his parents, James Russell and Pauline Porter.

James is survived by his wife, Kathy Maloney Porter, two daughters and their families: Heather Porter Bradshaw and Cogdell Bradshaw of Houston, and their children Connor, Emily, and Jack; and Erin Porter Decuir and Brian Decuir of Friendswood, and their children Braden and Brodie.

Other family members are his sisters: Nell Porter Compton, Kilgore, Clara Porter Gibson and husband Garland, Henderson; brother Robert Porter and wife Rhonda; mother-in-law Dorothy Maloney and brother-in-law Mike Maloney, all of Henderson, and several nieces and nephews.

The Porters have deep roots in Rusk County that reach back several generations. James was the next to youngest of four children, and the oldest boy. James attended school in Henderson all 12 years. He was elected president of his class every year in high school and graduated with honors in 1959. He attended Kilgore College, and then Baylor University, receiving a bachelor's degree in history and political science and graduating magna cum laude. He moved on to the University of Texas law school getting his law degree so he could pursue his dream of being a public servant.

During his professional career, he worked with Texaco, Inc., was in private practice,



## Obituary

**James Porter**

JUL 7, 1941 - JUL 21, 2013

and served as guest lecturer in South Texas School of law in Houston. After returning home to his roots, he taught at the Police Academy at Kilgore College. From 1972 to 1975, James began his years of public service as Municipal Judge of the city of Henderson. From 1975 to 1985, James served in the elected office of County Judge of Rusk County, where he presided over the Commissioner's Court, served as Juvenile judge, probate judge and heard misdemeanor cases. In 1985 he served as County Court of Law judge overseeing the areas of family and probate law, misdemeanor, civil and juvenile cases. As a judge, he heard thousands of cases which included over 1000 contested hearings before the bench or before juries. He continued his public service with Lone Star Legal Services in Tyler, retiring in 2004.

He was also a faithful servant of his church, First Presbyterian Church of Henderson. He served as Elder and Trustee. He served the larger Church as moderator of the Presbytery of the Covenant, the highest office any layman or minister can be named. In addition to the Texas Bar, James was a member of the Rusk County Chamber of Commerce, a board member of the East Texas Council of Governments, a member of the Texas College of Probate Judges, the Texas Association of Counties, the Texas Good Roads Association. He was awarded the distinction of "Road Hand" by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Faith, service, wisdom, and leadership were clear and visible all of his life.

Pallbearers will be John Tieken, Tom Laney, Jimmy Chapman, Bill Boren, Dr. Billy Brown, and Jim Bob Porter.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, Henderson, 311 South High, 75654.



## Tribute Wall

**James Porter**

JUL 7, 1941 - JUL 21, 2013



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Kathy and daughters, may the Lord bless and comfort you in this time of sorrow.##imported-begin##Sharon Reeves Collins##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Our family's prayers are with you all, Heather, Cogdell, Jack, Conner and Emily. May God's hand comfort you and your Mom during this time.##imported-begin##Laura Branch Mireles##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Heather: I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your father. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.##imported-begin##Marie Brown##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Our prayers are with you and your family at this time. God bless you and always know he holds you close to his heart. Val and Joy##imported-begin##Joy and Val Ryan##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

KATHY I'AM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS...MISS SEEING YOU..GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY##imported-begin##kathy brady##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



## Tribute Wall

**James Porter**

JUL 7, 1941 - JUL 21, 2013



**Anonymous** posted:

Kathy, Heather and Erin. I can't express how my heart aches to have learned of Jim's death. He was a wonderful friend and will have a place in my heart forever. I will cherish always the many years we shared at legal aid. I pray that God strengthens you through your sorrow.##imported-begin##Lillian Davis##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Nell and family, sorry to hear of your brother's passing. May the Lord comfort you at this time. And know that he is in a precious place and will one day see him again.Dena Alexander and Hazel Hays##imported-begin##Dena Alexander & Hazel Hays##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Thinking of the Porter family. So sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Robin Bagwell##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

So sorry to learn of James' passing. My sympathy to all family members. I pray the Lord may comfort you at this time.Ike Porter##imported-begin##Ike Porter##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Robert and family, I am sorry to hear of your brother's death. I remember in a history class the teacher telling us that when your brother's class did an oral history project that your brother came to class with a brown paper sack and placed it under his desk. When it was his turn to make his report he went to front of the class and opened his sack and took out a railroad spike which he said was from the historical RR tracks ceremony in Utah. The teacher and his class thought he was very clever. Linda Romer Houston, Tx.##imported-begin##Linda Romer##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



## Tribute Wall

**James Porter**

JUL 7, 1941 - JUL 21, 2013



**Anonymous** posted:

Judge Porter, on behalf of the Boatwright family, we want to personally thank you for your service to Rusk County, and for being a great influence to our family. You will be greatly miss by our family and the citizens of Rusk County. Enjoy Heaven Judge Porter, may you rest in peace. To the Porter Family please accept our deepest condolences for your loss. We pray that the Lord gives you strength, peace, comfort, understanding, and love.##imported-begin##Chad Boatwright##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

Sweet James.....he was our leader and our dear friend.....we will miss him.Senior Class of '59##imported-begin##Sandra Patrick##imported-end##

September 19 at 6:32 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

*Rader*  
FUNERAL HOMES  
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON