



## Millard Lawton Porter

June 7, 1926 - November 16, 2020

The Reverend Dr. Millard Lawton Porter, 94, passed away peacefully on November 16, 2020, at Preston Place. Reverend Porter was born on June 7, 1926, to John Robert Porter and Ada Lou Moore.

He was preceded in death by his parents, six brothers, three sisters, and loving wife, Esther Keith Porter.

Rev. Porter is survived by his daughter, Linda Crawford (Lowell Crawford); son, Wayne Porter (Jewell McKinney); granddaughter, Kimberly Crawford Sheehan (Jeff Sheehan); grandson, John P. Crawford; great-grandson, Keith Sheehan; great-granddaughter, Lindsay Sheehan and special niece, Shirley Salyer.

Millard Porter was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and American. He served for three years in General Patton's Third Army during World War II and was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor.

Following the war, he took a job as a machinist at Quick-Way Machine Shop in Kingsport, where he continued to work for over 40 years. In 1948, he married Esther Keith. Over their 67 years of marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Porter traveled extensively across the U.S., visiting 49 of the 50 states. They enjoyed deep sea fishing, going on cruises and spending time with family.

“Papaw” Porter could always be counted on for comforting heart-to-heart talks, wise advice and big smiles and laughs when playing with his great-grandchildren.

Above all, Pastor Porter was devoted to God and to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ at home and around the world. In 1981, he received a Doctor of Theology degree from International Seminary in Orlando, Florida. He served as pastor to many local churches over the years, including Meade's Chapel, Browder's Chapel, Morrison City Mission, Arcadia Baptist Church, and Gethsemane Baptist Church. More recently, he was

a member of Pleasant View Baptist Church.

Out of his dedication to spreading the Gospel, in 2000, Reverend Dr. Porter established the Open Bible Broadcast radio ministry in partnership with Pan American Broadcasting. His program continues to be broadcast over several stations across East Tennessee, Western Africa, Albania, Macedonia, and Egypt. Thanks to the support of Kenneth Hill, his program can be heard on WPWT AM and FM radio.

A special thanks to the staff of Preston Place, who provided loving care and attention to Reverend Porter in the last few years of his life. He loved sharing the message with fellow residents. Also, special thanks to the Amedysis Hospice staff who cared for him in his last days.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and concerns, there will be a private family graveside service at this time. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to The Wounded Warrior Project by visiting [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)

The care of Reverend Millard Porter and his family has been entrusted to the staff of Oak Hill Funeral and Cremation Services.

# Comments

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“ Linda and Wayne & family - so sorry about the passing of Millard. You were blessed to have such great parents. Millard and Esther were wonderful people and were an integral part of our "village" when we were growing up on Adair Street. I will miss them. Will be praying for you. Phil Ketron

**PHIL ketron** - November 21, 2020 at 01:36 PM

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“ My Dad, Alvin Barker, was fortunate to have spent some time with Preacher (that's what Daddy called him) before my Dad moved to Preston Place 2. My Dad adored Preacher as did I. He was so good to my Dad while he was there and my Dad considered him a special friend. My Dad passed on in June of this year so I'm sure they're having a wonderful reunion in heaven. What a very special man. My heart goes out to you as you learn how to live without him. Until we see them again...  
Tina Arnold

**Tina Arnold** - November 20, 2020 at 12:16 PM

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“ I'm sorry for your loss. Mr Porter will be missed by all of his family at Preston Place. He was a special man and I will miss our talks. Bless you all. Debbie Smith

**Debbie Smith** - November 19, 2020 at 10:13 PM

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“ Wayne and Linda, so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Loved him dearly. Praying for your family at this time. Just lean on the Lord and let him help you thru this.  
Vanessa(vermillion) Cornelius

**Vanessa(vermillion) Cornelius** - November 19, 2020 at 09:44 PM

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“ Dr. Porter and his wife Esther were a blessing to my wife and I when they were members of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Kingsport. Millard I had many discussions about faith, and I respected his great knowledge and faith. He was a giant in his knowledge and obedience to God's Word. I learned many things from him.

**Rev. Ronald C. Moss** - November 19, 2020 at 06:51 PM

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“ Linda, Wayne & families,  
My thoughts & prayers are with you during this difficult time. I have fond memories of your dad and mom when I attended The Mission and knowing you all all these years. It was always a pleasure to talk with your dad as he never failed to mention Christ in the conversation.  
Louella (Adams) Blair

**Louella Blair** - November 19, 2020 at 05:49 PM

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“ I always enjoyed listening to Rev Dr. Porter's preaching from the time I was a little girl. I'm so sorry for your loss.



**Sarah Hall** - November 19, 2020 at 11:18 AM

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“ Lit a candle in memory of Millard Lawton Porter



**Tim Vaughn** - November 19, 2020 at 09:08 AM



“ Lit a candle in memory of Millard Lawton Porter



**The Staff of Oak Hill Funeral Home** - November 19, 2020 at 09:07 AM

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“ "Well done my good and faithful servant", those words ring so true when the Lord greeted Brother Porter into heaven. What a joy it was to be with this wonderful gentleman and man of God. His life was an example for everyone to follow. May God's comfort, grace and mercy shine upon the entire family. God bless each of you, Joe & Sherry.

**Joe Stallard** - November 18, 2020 at 10:27 PM

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“ Nancy Burem lit a candle in memory of Millard Lawton Porter



**Nancy Burem** - November 18, 2020 at 10:09 PM

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“ Wayne and Porter Family

Our condolences to you in the passing  
of Your Loved One

**Tom & Faye Kern** - November 18, 2020 at 06:05 PM

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“ I worked with Mr. Porter and his Son Wayne from 1976 to the Fall of 1978. He was always a very nice man. Wayne I haven't seen you in years, but to all of the family I am sorry for your loss. I am so glad that Heaven awaits those who are saved by the grace of God.

Larry McMurray - November 18, 2020 at 04:01 PM

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“ Joann Taylor lit a candle in memory of Millard Lawton Porter



Joann Taylor - November 18, 2020 at 12:28 PM

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“ Steve Reynolds sent a virtual gift in memory of Millard Lawton Porter

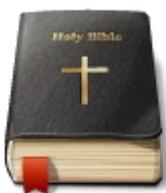


Steve Reynolds - November 18, 2020 at 11:19 AM

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“ Linda Moyers Mullins sent a virtual gift in memory of Millard Lawton Porter



Linda Moyers Mullins - November 18, 2020 at 11:18 AM

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“ Linda, Wayne and families. I was so sorry to see that your precious father passed away. He is gone to his Heavenly reward. What a great man and preacher he was! I remember years ago, when I would attend Morrison City Mission and set under his Godly preaching. The Lord brought him to my mind, Sunday night or Monday night one and I prayed for him. I pray the Lord will give you peace in your hearts and in the days ahead! God bless his memory! I love each of you.

**Brenda Ruth Bledsoe** - November 18, 2020 at 10:49 AM

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“ Phil & Brenda Hoskins lit a candle in memory of Millard Lawton Porter



**Phil & Brenda Hoskins** - November 18, 2020 at 08:23 AM



“ Linda and Wayne.i am so sorry for the loss of your Dad.I will always cherish the many visits i had with him and my Sister Esther.We would sit and chat until late at night.Millard was a good listener and always offered spiritual advice.He was not only my Brother-In-Law but also a good friend.He will be missed.  
Prayers and Love to you at this time.

**Mary Ellen Kilgore Hamilton** - November 21, 2020 at 09:11 AM