



## Janet Rhodes Porter

February 21, 1936 - March 20, 2026

Janet Rhodes Porter, age 90, passed away on Friday, March 20, 2026 at her home in Newport, TN. She was born on February 21, 1936 in St. Louis Missouri. She graduated from Cocke County High School and attended the University of Tennessee where she was a member of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. After marriage to Kenneth Porter in 1955 and her children were in school, she obtained her degree from Carson Newman College. She taught English at Cocke County High School for 5 years and then became a Guidance Counselor for the next 23 years before retirement.

Janet was a devoted mother and grandmother where her home was a place for many happy gatherings filled with good food, family and friends. Janet enjoyed her kitty cats over the years, travel, UT Football games, golf, tennis, gardening, bridge, playing the piano, and spending time with friends and family. She was a member of the First Baptist Church and enjoyed attending meetings for the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Janet was preceded in death by her parents, Earl Edward Rhodes and Evelyn Lillard Rhodes; her husband Kenneth Porter; and her brother, Edward Rhodes Jr.

She is survived by her daughter Janie C. Porter and Donna Henry of Nashville, TN; her son James Kenneth Porter, Jr. (Jim) of Newport, TN; her grandchildren James Kenneth Porter III (Trey) and Melanie Castillo of San Antonio, TX; Katie Langan Fischer, her husband Michael, and great grandchildren Harrison Calhoun Fischer and Rhodes Lawrence Fischer of

Knoxville, TN; Kathy L. Porter, mother of the grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to Newport Post-Acute and Rehabilitation Center, especially Tracie Layman-England and others, Smoky Mountain Home Health and Hospice, Nephew Eddie Rhodes and wife Paige Rhodes, and special friends Robin and Willie Green.

Private family graveside services will be in Union Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions may be made to the church or charity of your choice.

Family and friends may sign the guest register at Manes Funeral Home or online at [www.manesfuneralhome.com](http://www.manesfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements by Manes Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall

GW

“ Janet was a wonderful lady and a great friend. She was as beautiful as could be. Her spirit was like a beautiful butterfly floating in a warm breeze. I worked for Janet and Judge Porter and it was an amazing time in my life. My sincere condolences.



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**Glenda Willis** - April 19 at 05:19 PM

JK

“ Our sincerest condolence to Mrs. Porter’s family. She was a very elegant and classy lady. We pray you have comfort and peace now and in the days to come.  
Terry and Janey Clevenger Kinser

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**janey Clevenger Kinser** - April 04 at 01:05 PM

DS

“ Mrs Porter was my first high school English teacher, and a wonderful lady. I remember studying Shakespeare for the first time in her class, which was memorable. She inspired me to attend The University of Tennessee although I never got to thank her. Kenneth and his father before him was our attorney over the years before he became a judge. My sympathies to the family.

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**David D Smith** - March 25 at 08:02 AM



“ *Prayers for the family!*



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**Jeff Kyker** - March 24 at 09:39 PM

MD

“ *Janie and Jimmer,  
Your mother, like her mother, was beautiful inside and out. I treasure our lifelong friendship and the the memories made at SMCC, going to plays with Janet, Charlotte, Josie and Jamie, being AOPi sorority sisters at UT, and our husbands being law partners. Janie, a strong memory is Janet always reminding me I was the first person to come to Ft. Sanders to see you shortly after you were born. Scutter and I are so sorry for your loss. Love,  
Mary Parrott Dunn*

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**Mary Dunn** - March 24 at 05:53 PM

JG

“ *Sending condolences to Janie and Jim and family. I'm so sorry, I have many good memories of Janet and Kenneth over the years. Many prayers and blessings for all.*

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**Jackie Gorrell** - March 24 at 12:37 PM

ET

“ *Mrs. Porter was a sweet and gracious person. My prayers and condolences to the family.*

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**Ellen Turner** - March 24 at 10:53 AM

GW

“ *My sincere condolences. I was Kenneth Porters parents caregiver and I saw and became friends with Janet daily. Janet was a beautiful lady. Blessing to her family.*



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**Glenda Willis** - March 23 at 10:00 PM

BF

“ *Janie and Jimmer, My parents loved your mother so much. When I think back to my childhood, she is in many of the happiest of my memories. She and Liz Henry and others had a lovely tea for me at SMCC before Mike and I married. It was the best party. Love, Beth Ford*

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**Beth Ford** - March 23 at 01:21 PM

AD

“ *Janet was a precious lady! She was always smiling and had something nice to say. Payers for comfort for your family.*

*Amy Burnett Dorsey*

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**Amy Dorsey** - March 23 at 07:35 AM

CB

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. Janet was a beautiful woman & so kind. She will be missed by many family & friends.*

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**Connie & Marsha Ball** - March 22 at 10:22 PM

SA

“ So many wonderful memories...our hearts and prayers are with you all. Susan and Ronnie Ellison; Bybee, TN.

Susan G. Ashmore - March 22 at 07:57 PM

LB

“ Prayers for comfort  
Janet was such a beautiful woman inside and out  
A beautiful picture of southern elegance



Loretta Styles Ball - March 22 at 07:04 PM

TL

“ Sweet Janet, you were a very special light in my life. I am very honored to have shared some of your last days with you. I will forever remember you and Kenneth. Lots of prayers for Janie, Jim, and family.

Tracie Layman-England - March 22 at 06:35 PM

SM

“ My sincere condolences for the family. I had the pleasure of knowing the family through my family.

Shelia Gregory Mcgaha - March 22 at 01:57 PM

LL

“ Such a lovely lady inside and out! I have fond memories of Janet at the SMCC pool, as a wonderful friend to my Mom, and all of us. Rest in peace, classy lady.

Lori Love - March 22 at 01:46 PM

JE

“ *An absolutely Lovely Lady!*

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**Jeanne** - March 22 at 10:41 AM

NO

“ *Nancy Matthews Owens lit a candle in memory of Janet Porter*



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**Nancy Matthews Owens** - March 22 at 08:51 AM

MT

“ *Mark Trentham lit a candle in memory of Janet Porter*



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**Mark Trentham** - March 21 at 08:48 PM

AB

“ *Such a lovely lady... sincere sympathies to all the family...*

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**Abby Balch** - March 21 at 07:58 PM

SB

“ *I was saddened to learn of Janet's passing. I always saw her as a woman of elegance, poise and grace. I enjoyed our talks when she came to the Community Center to play bridge. Prayers for the family.*

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**Sherry Butler** - March 21 at 07:13 PM



“ *Fond memories of Janet. Prayers for all.*

Pat N Patricia Taylor - March 21 at 02:20 PM

JR

“ *June Russell lit a candle in memory of Janet Porter*



June Russell - March 21 at 01:49 PM

TR

“ *Janet had all the grace and class this life could offer and is reunited with her husband Ken in a far better world for eternity. JJanet will surely be missed but never forgotten. A compliment to a wonderful friend.*

Tom Linda Rosberg - March 21 at 01:47 PM

WW

“ *Janet&Kenneth have been our friends for years both were special people love you both Wilma(Billy)Webb RIP*



Wilma Webb - March 21 at 01:32 PM

MT

“ *Prayers for comfort in the coming days .*

Mae Sauceman Testerman - March 21 at 12:19 PM

KJ

“ *She was beautiful inside and out. Sending love and my prayers.*

**Kitty Jones** - March 21 at 11:29 AM

CV

“ *Mrs. Porter was my guidance counselor in high school and a patient when I worked for Drs. Henry and Foster. I was very fond of her and I always saw her as beautiful inside and out. May she rest in peace.*

**Cindy Valentine** - March 21 at 11:17 AM

BC

“ *Brenda cook lit a candle in memory of Janet Porter*



**Brenda cook** - March 21 at 10:07 AM

DO

“ *While news of Janet’s death was not unexpected, it still hurts. We have proudly claimed our relationship as ‘decent cousins’ for many years through our connections through the Sisk-Gray-Lillard families. One of my fondest memories is of the day she organized a get-together with her mom, Aunt Dorothy, Uncle Mulford, and Aunt Dean so they could share their stories about their mother, Cousin Lizzie. Of course, Janet served lunch, using her good china, sterling, and crystal. All of this was for my book on the Sisk family. We also worked together at CCHS for many years, played countless rounds of bridge, and swapped stories every Tuesday at Chicken Biscuit Club. Quite simply, I loved my ‘Decent Cousin’ and will miss our chats. Until we meet again.*

**Duay O’Neil** - March 21 at 09:48 AM

JC

*With deepest sympathy to all the family. I remember she was my "big sister" in Alpa Omicron Pi at U.T. As someone else said, she was beautiful inside and out. Rest in peace, dear friend.*

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**Jan Carpenter** - March 22 at 11:17 AM

GB

*I was saddened to learn of Janet's death. She had been my high school counselor, and later I had the pleasure of working with her for many years. Sending prayers for comfort and peace for her friends and family.*

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**Gail Burchette** - March 22 at 11:36 AM

SM

*Jim and family, my sincere condolences. Take comfort in your many memories together.*

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**Sandy McCarter** - March 24 at 10:11 AM