



Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield

April 7, 1925 - January 22, 2019

Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 535 Cathay Street, Saginaw, MI 48607. Pastor Dennis Laffoon will officiate with interment Forest Lawn Cemetery, 3210 South Washington Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48601. Friends may call Evans & Browne's Funeral Home, 441 North Jefferson Avenue on Monday from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m. Family will be present from 6:00-8:00 p.m. to greet friends.

Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at the age of 93 years. Elsenia was born April 7, 1925 in Marlin, Texas the daughter of Lethaniel and Arlean (Hardeman) King. Elsenia moved to Saginaw at a young age with her family.

Elsenia was a graduate of Saginaw High School, "Class of 1943". She married Henry McCarthy Porterfield, Sr. They were the proud parents of two children, Henry McCarthy Porterfield, Jr. and Henrenee Darlene (Brown) Porterfield.

Lee Elsenia was a humanitarian and spent her life giving back to her community. It was second nature for her to help others however; she was uncomfortable doing something just for herself. Her giving nature was based on the belief that, "But for the grace of God go I", I Corinthian 15:8-10. She took to heart, Matthew 25:40 (KJV)"And the King shall answer and say unto thee, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me".

In June of 1962, Elsenia and Henry became foster parents after an announcement was made at Henry's church, (St. Joseph Catholic Church) that the community needed foster parents. They were foster parents to many sons and daughters. Elsenia was a foster parent for over 50 years. As a foster parent Elsenia made sure every child was treated as family, worked hard in school and attended church weekly. She was certified to care for five children long term and obtained additional certification to care for babies born prematurely.

In 1967, she and her family started the Friendship Awards at Saginaw High School and later added the Porterfield Scholarship. Each year ten or more students received a financial award for giving back to their community. In 2003, Elsenia expanded the award to Nouvel Catholic Central and in subsequent years the award was expanded to Buena Vista High School. The awards and scholarships as a thank you from Elsenia to the recipients for making the Saginaw community a better place.

She was a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church for over 60 years, where she was a member of the Senior Choir, the Usher Board Number One, she was a teacher of Sunday school, Vacation Bible School and Confirmation Class Instructor. In 1986 she was named one of the Saginawian's of the year for her volunteer work with Special Olympics and being a foster parent. In her spare time, she would crochet Afghans and would give them away as gifts and awards for those who helped their community. She gave away over 400 afghans. Elsenia became a member of the Saginaw Human Planning Commission, Voter Registrar and Saginaw County Red Cross. She was a recipient of the Finer Womanhood Award presented by Zeta Omega Zeta Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She was a member of the NAACP and the Girls Scouts of America.

Elsenia is survived by her two children, Henry M. (Doris Jean) Porterfield and Henrenee Darlene Brown; four grandchildren, Henry McCarthy (Elizabeth Ann) Porterfield, John Howard Porterfield II, Jason Lamar Porterfield and Kenyona Chree Harmon; seven great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Margaret (Jesse) Oates; one god-daughter, Chanel Hilary Logan, many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Mrs. Porterfield was preceded in death by her husband, Henry M. Porterfield; her parents, Lethaniel and Arlean (Hardeman) King; two sisters, Sallie Ruth Kendrick-King and Constance Hardeman; two brothers, Lawrence Easter and Lee King, her grandmother, Beaula Evans and other relatives.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olivet Cemetery

3440 S. Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 28. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home
441 North Jefferson Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607

Family Hour

JAN 28. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home
441 North Jefferson Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48607

Funeral Service

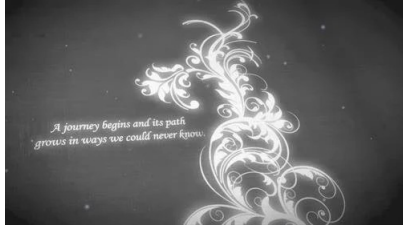
JAN 29. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel A.M.E. Church
535 Cathay Street
Saginaw, MI 48601

Tribute Wall



“ Evans & Browne's Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Browne's Mortuary - January 31, 2019 at 10:41 AM



I am heart broken. RIH. I was one of the foster kids Jermain. Well done good and faithful servant. Rest in thy care.

Jermain Hawver - August 29, 2019 at 04:13 PM

GT

“ George I. Tsiros lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



George I. Tsiros - October 21, 2022 at 01:20 AM

WR

“ To:mrs, Lee Elsenia Porterfield, she is the most lovable sweet woman who show love to me and my daughter who decrease, she give you her heart and her love and give you that warm hug, she treat me like her daughter and we both in the choral at Bethany A M E church, I know I going to miss you at church but god got her in his care, I will love you very much, To the Family my pray go out to you and your family, I know what you going throw I lost my mother but they both would be in heaven together , From Wanda Faye Reynolds & The Reynolds Family.




Wanda Faye Reynolds - January 31, 2019 at 09:07 AM

JD

“ *JaNisse Daniel lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield*




JaNisse Daniel - January 30, 2019 at 09:03 AM

 Michael Thompson

“ *"My wife, Denise Culpepper, was among Mr. Porterfield's students at Potter Elementary. I recall Mrs. Porterfield at the Saginaw Human Planning Commission meetings with her well-behaved foster children. Such an outstanding woman. We are proud to still have one of her beautiful afghans. Seems like it will last forever.*

Michael Thompson - January 29, 2019 at 10:13 PM

 Michael Thompson

“ *Michael Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield*



Michael Thompson - January 29, 2019 at 10:01 PM

KW

“ *Kim Caver Wright lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield*



Kim Caver Wright - January 29, 2019 at 06:44 PM

MW

“ *Three of my children received the Friendship Award at Nouvel Catholic Central. They truly were honored by receiving that award more than any other award. Your mom was a wonderful woman who gave so much to so many. Saginaw has lost a very special woman. The Wolohan Family*

Marcia Wolohan - January 29, 2019 at 02:06 PM

CJ

“ C. Jarrett-Mason lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



C. Jarrett-Mason - January 29, 2019 at 11:23 AM

CJ

Taught me the value of Sunday School!!! Peace Be With You Family

C. Jarrett-Mason - January 29, 2019 at 11:27 AM

AP

“ My most sincere condolences to the family. Mrs. Porefield was a "vitreous woman" who lived and taught a life of faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She exemplified what it means to "to love your neighbor as yourself," always caring about others. She was an important part of the Bethel AME Church family and will be truly missed. RIP, Mrs. Porterfield, you fought a good fight and touched many lives along this journey.

Alberta Pruitt - January 29, 2019 at 07:27 AM

ER

“ Dear Henry and Doris, and the Porterfield family,
So sorry about the passing of your mother. Mrs. Elsenia worked helping us in youth activities at the church when we were kids. She was an outstanding and a wonderful lady, and will be remembered always. Our family are praying for you as you go through this time of celebration for the life of your mother.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Rencher,
Liz and Demetria.

Elizabeth Rencher - January 28, 2019 at 06:41 PM

DM

“ Derrell Martin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Derrell Martin - January 28, 2019 at 06:31 PM

FL

“ Fermer & Jackie Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Fermer & Jackie Lewis - January 28, 2019 at 02:32 PM

DM

“ Doloris L. Mixon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Doloris L. Mixon - January 28, 2019 at 10:06 AM



“ A Beautiful person.



Mary Bailey-Fifer - January 28, 2019 at 07:25 AM

TF

“ R.I.P ~Heartfelt Prayers To The Entire Family 💜🙏



Theresa Cooper & Family - January 28, 2019 at 01:55 AM



“ Aiyana Oates lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Aiyana Oates - January 27, 2019 at 09:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield.*



January 27, 2019 at 09:49 PM

LW

“ *Lillie Williams Grays*



Lillie Williams-Grays - January 27, 2019 at 09:29 PM

WR

“ *Willa Randle lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield*



Willa Randle - January 27, 2019 at 02:11 PM

MT

“ *Mr And Mrs CHARLES TAYLOR lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield*



Mr and Mrs CHARLES TAYLOR - January 26, 2019 at 07:09 PM

GD

“ *Gregory Daniel lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield*



Gregory Daniel - January 26, 2019 at 02:17 PM

MK

“ The Porterfields were the “go to” foster home for years for children services workers. They were kind and generous and loving people and always ready to open their doors. Elsenia in particular will always hold a special place in my heart

mary jo kniebbe - January 26, 2019 at 09:33 AM

SH

“ Stephanie Hall lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Stephanie Hall - January 26, 2019 at 08:45 AM

AZ

“ Albert And Frances Zackrie lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Albert and Frances Zackrie - January 26, 2019 at 02:54 AM

MF

“ RIP Mrs. Porterfield,. Deepest Condolences To Family and Friends. God Bless All! Love & Prayers, Brenda (Ms. Brenda Bryant-Reynolds)



Ms. Brenda Bryant-Reynolds & Family - January 26, 2019 at 12:34 AM

PJ

“ Purvis Carter Jr. lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Purvis Carter Jr. - January 25, 2019 at 07:31 PM

BL

“ *Rest In Heaven Mrs. Poterfield. Bobbie Crosby Locke, Cantonment, FL*



Bobbie Crosby Locke - January 25, 2019 at 05:04 PM

CW

“ *Calvin & Delores Williams lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield*



Calvin & Delores Williams - January 25, 2019 at 01:33 PM

FJ

“ *Felicia Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield*



Felicia Jones - January 25, 2019 at 01:14 PM

JS

“ *She was truly a blessing to the Southside of Saginaw. God Bless you & your family during this time. -Jennefie Stewart & family*



Jennefie Stewart - January 25, 2019 at 12:33 PM

DM

“ *Sincere Condolences. I felt so special when I was awarded the Black and Gold Blanket that she presented every year. It was a great honor and a special gift that I still cherish*

Deborah Morris-Williams - January 25, 2019 at 11:01 AM

DC

“ Deborah Champion lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Deborah Champion - January 25, 2019 at 08:23 AM

GL

“ Glendorah Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Glendorah Lawrence - January 25, 2019 at 07:17 AM

GL

“ Glendorah Lawrence lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Glendorah Lawrence - January 25, 2019 at 07:17 AM

NS

“ Natalie Sanders lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Natalie Sanders - January 25, 2019 at 06:17 AM

SH

“ Sherry Hannah lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Sherry Hannah - January 24, 2019 at 09:29 PM

ES

“ *Ethel Shaw lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield*



Ethel Shaw - January 24, 2019 at 08:34 PM

JC

“ *To the Porterfield family, you are in my thoughts and prayers in your time of bereavement. Mrs. Porterfield earned her wings and I know she will truly be missed by all the lives she touched. Rest on Mrs. P.*



janie cork - January 24, 2019 at 07:29 PM

BN

“ *Barb Nichols lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield*



Barb Nichols - January 24, 2019 at 02:20 PM

LP

“ *Leticia Price sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield*



Leticia Price - January 24, 2019 at 12:13 PM

BR

“ *RIH Mrs. Porterfield.
My prayers & thoughts are with the family at this most difficult time....*



Barbra J. Roberson - January 24, 2019 at 10:44 AM

AN

“ Alicia Nelson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Alicia Nelson - January 23, 2019 at 08:51 PM

BR

“ Mrs. Porter field was a woman who lived a life that was faithful and Christ-like. Mrs.Porterfield was an important woman in my life. As my Sunday School teacher along with other roles she played at Bethel I always looked to her for guidance and leadership. Mrs. Porterfield, “Well done thou good and faithful servant!”

Barbara Michelle Tate (Barbara Rouse) - January 23, 2019 at 07:03 PM



“ Mrs. Porterfield was the definition of a "Woman of Great Faith." We Loved Her and She will be Truly Missed. So Thankful That She Was A Part Our Lives. Our Loss is Heaven's Gain! "To God Be The Glory!!!"
Houston Jr. & Elaine Jackson and Family



Elaine Jackson - January 23, 2019 at 03:05 PM

WB

“ Walsezetta Bennett sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Walsezetta Bennett - January 23, 2019 at 02:39 PM

MJ

“ Mrs. Porterfield was a very nice lady, and when I was younger I lived to go over her house cause I knew she had lots of sweets there. RIH MRS. PORTERFIELD

MissMikko Johnson - January 23, 2019 at 02:15 PM

SM

“ Sam And Deborah Mack lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Sam and Deborah Mack - January 23, 2019 at 01:58 PM

BK

“ Beatrice King lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Beatrice King - January 23, 2019 at 01:33 PM

IC

“ IRMA CHISM lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



IRMA CHISM - January 23, 2019 at 12:27 PM

LP

“ Leticia Price sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Leticia Price - January 23, 2019 at 11:17 AM

 Serita Hope-Oates

“ Serita Hope-Oates lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Serita Hope-Oates - January 23, 2019 at 11:13 AM

DS

“ Deanna Smith-Green lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Deanna Smith-Green - January 23, 2019 at 11:13 AM

PM

“ Pamela Monroe lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Pamela Monroe - January 23, 2019 at 09:19 AM

AT

“ Annette Turner sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Annette Turner - January 23, 2019 at 09:03 AM

BJ

“ Brenda Jones lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Brenda Jones - January 23, 2019 at 08:16 AM

VM

“ Veronica McClain lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Veronica McClain - January 23, 2019 at 08:06 AM

JB

“ Prayers to the Porterfield From Janice Brown And Family



Janice Brown - January 23, 2019 at 03:09 AM

SC

“ JUST WANT TO LET THE PORTERFIELD FAMILY KNOW THAT OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH EACH OF YOU MRS. ELSENIA WAS A WONDERFUL LOVING WOMAN AND A BLESSING TO MANY ESPECIALLY OUR SOUTH SIDE COMMUNITY... THE CLARK AND CARRUTH FAMILY



sona Carruth - January 22, 2019 at 11:23 PM

VJ

“ Valerie Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Valerie Johnson - January 22, 2019 at 10:21 PM

GE

“ Gloria Eiland sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lee Elsenia Porterfield



Gloria Eiland - January 22, 2019 at 07:28 PM