



Josie Crocker Porter

May 19, 1941 - October 26, 2024

On the afternoon of Saturday, October 26, 2024, our beloved Josie Catherine Porter slipped away peacefully into eternal rest surrounded by her devoted family. Josie was born a twin on May 19, 1941, in Isle of Wight County, Virginia to Angeline McCall (Banks) and Charlie Leslie Crocker. Joseph Kirkland, Josie's twin brother, passed away at one year old.

Josie was affectionately called "Catherine" or "Cat" by family and close friends. From a young age, her musical gifts were apparent. She was inspired to play the piano by both parents, who also played. In addition to the piano, her father played the trombone, harmonica, accordion, guitar, and drums. Josie delighted in "fiddling" on her neighbor's piano (Mrs. Janie Stone), displaying extraordinary talent. Later, Mrs. Stone encouraged Josie's mother to allow her to take lessons.

Josie began to study piano with Mrs. Eunice Wilkins, a well-known musician in Tidewater and along the East Coast, and organist at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia. Soon afterwards, Josie became the pianist for Ebenezer's Sunday School and the accompanist for the Alexander Wilkins Chorale, which performed concerts locally along with Mrs. Selena Mae Scott, another organist at Ebenezer. As a teenager, Josie continued to learn and play while in school, with her first job as a pianist at Union Baptist Missionary Church (Shoulders Hill). She graduated with her beloved Class of 1959 from

I.C. Norcom High School. While in high school, she accompanied the chorus directed by Mr. Melvin Lewis.

As the youngest of six sisters and four brothers, Josie loved her siblings dearly and appreciated their sacrifices for her growing up. To provide a few examples, her siblings provided her clothes for special occasions, covered the expenses for her to be a 1959 Eureka Debutante, purchased her first car ('64 Chevrolet Malibu), and heroically saved her piano from the second floor during a neighbor's house fire. She admired her sisters (Eleanor, Dorothy, Leslie, Alma, Helen, and Emily) and brothers (George, Howard, Clifton, and Johnny) and often reminisced about the early days living at 206 First Avenue and the close-knit community of family and friends.

Josie received a B.S. degree in Public School Music (Concentration in Piano) from Norfolk State University - NSU (Class of 1963). She studied piano with Mr. Noah Ryder, Mr. Reginald Parker, and Dr. Rosemary Adams. At NSU, she was a member

of the first Women's Sextet and Concert Choir. During her senior year, she was invited to join Delta Sigma Theta's Epsilon Theta Chapter by Dr. Marian Palmer Capps, former NSU professor, chapter advisor, and founding president of the Norfolk Alumnae Chapter. However, she was unable to continue Pyramid Club initiation activities. After 30 years, she completed her journey to Delta in 1993 via the Norfolk Alumnae Chapter.

Her professional career as a music teacher started in Staunton, Virginia at Central Augusta High School (1963 – 1964). After this one-year term, she returned to Portsmouth to teach fifth grade at Moffett Place Elementary School, where she met her husband, Lloyd Troy Porter. They were united in marriage in 1965 at Ebenezer Baptist Church (the Crocker Family church). From their blessed union, they became the very proud parents of Chris and

Adrienne.

Josie's tenure as a fifth grade and music teacher exceeded more than 30 years in the Portsmouth Public School System. As an outstanding educator and advocate for children, she received many awards and accolades including Teacher of the Year in 1994. She taught at Brighton, Emily Spong, Douglass Park, Simonsdale, Lakeview, Shea Terrace, Highland Biltmore, and Hodges Manor Elementary Schools until retirement. In the community, Josie was always recognized and acknowledged by former students and their parents. She was a pianist/accompanist for soloists, numerous events, and family functions over the years in the Tidewater area, including the L.D. Britt Annual Scholarship Fund Dinner.

Josie was a devoted member of Ebenezer Baptist Church and the Chancel Choir. She served as one of the church's pianists and Women's Day Music Director for many years. She wrote the church's "Welcome Song" which is still being sung today. She was a member of the Norfolk Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the Red Hatters. She and Lloyd could often be found at banquets and choir concerts in the Tidewater area and attended many Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) events (Lloyd was a proud ECSU '64 alum). After retirement, she enjoyed attending exercise classes and activities at the Portsmouth Senior Center and spending time with her adored grandchildren.

Josie was predeceased by her loving husband of almost 55 years, Lloyd Troy, parents, sisters, Eleanor Hasket, Dorothy Beeks, Leslie Long, Alma Hines, and Emily Gwynn; and brothers George A.C. Crocker, Howard Crocker, and Johnny Crocker.

Those cherishing the memories of her life are her children, Chris Porter

(Melanie) of Glenn Allen, VA, and Adrienne Smith (Orlando) of Bowie, MD; Josie's beloved grandchildren and the proud "Granny" to Ellis and Greer Porter, and Erin and Pierce Smith; goddaughter, Justina Eason of Lexington, VA; sister, Helen Hines of Portsmouth, VA; brother, Clifton Crocker (Eunice) of Chesapeake, VA; brother-in-law, Anthony Porter of Suffolk, VA, and sisters-in-law, Brenda Tann of Ahoskie, NC and Joan Barnes (Luther) of Como, NC; treasured family, wonderful friends, and the best neighbors you could ask for!

Josie's steadfast belief in God and her commitment to her faith were evident in her daily devotions, prayers, service to others, smile, and praise and worship through singing and playing the piano, and the way she lived her life!

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Norfolk State University Choirs by visiting www.nsu.edu/givenow. Select "NSU Choirs" from the Select a Fund drop down field or mail checks payable to Norfolk State University Foundation (write NSU Choirs/In Memory of Josie Crocker Porter) on memo line to Norfolk State University, 700 Park Avenue, HBW Suite 410, Norfolk, VA 23504.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn Memorial Gardens

3920 Airline Blvd
Chesapeake, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 3. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 487-3700
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

Wake Service

NOV 3. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

J.T. Fisher Funeral Services
1248 N. George Washington Hwy.
Chesapeake, VA 23323
(757) 487-3700
info@jtfisherfuneralservices.com
<https://www.jtfisherfuneralservices.com>

Life Celebration Service

NOV 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ebenezer Baptist Church
728 Effingham Street
Portsmouth, VA

The Life Celebration Service will be live streamed.

Tribute Wall



“ J.T. Fisher Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Josie Crocker Porter



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - November 20, 2024 at 02:56 PM

NJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Niece Jan - July 31, 2025 at 05:37 PM

NJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Niece Jan - July 21, 2025 at 05:15 PM

NJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Niece Jan - November 19, 2024 at 10:05 AM

JG

“ I am told that the summer when I was one year old and my brother Jimmy was a newborn baby, Grandmother McCall Crocker commissioned Josie to travel by bus from Virginia to New Jersey to help her sister Emily (my mom) with the two back-to-back babies. From there, Josie ("Aunt Catherine") was always a part of my life, especially during numerous summers, along with Aunts Eleanor, Dorothy, Leslie, Alma, and Helen, and Uncles George, Howard, Clifton, and Johnny. She will be deeply missed, and the comfort is in knowing that her faith was in the Lord Jesus Christ. Lovingly, your niece, Jan

Jan G.T. - November 12, 2024 at 02:30 PM

PO

“ To Adrienne, Orlando, Erin, and Pierce, I am so deeply sorry to hear of the loss of your mother (grandmother). Mrs. Porter's legacy of music and service will live on forever. Cherished memories of your dear mother's love and kindness will always be with you. I am praying for strength and comfort for you in the days ahead. May God's grace be upon you always.
Pam Oliver



P Oliver - November 05, 2024 at 07:39 PM

JB

“ My sincerest condolences to the Josie Porter family ,she was my old neighbor,my parents were Rosa and Jacob Thompson .

Jacquelyn Brown - November 04, 2024 at 11:42 AM

KB

“ I have so many fond memories of my dear friend/accompanist, Josie.I was a teacher at Highland Biltmore when she was the music teacher. I remember she TOLD me to sing at the early Christmas breakfast...OH Holy Night and Sweet Little Jesus Boy. I never attended the breakfast because they were too early. I wanted to tell her"Josie I can't even talk at 7:00 in the morning,I know I can't sing. I had to get to school about 7:00 in the morning to warm up/do vocalizations. Of course, I did not share my thoughts with Josie because she was so kind. I sang several times. After we both retired, I still contacted Josie to play for me. She allowed me to come to her home to practice Ave Maria/Gounod and other pieces. Josie also played for me at Ebenezer Church and at my niece's wedding. Thank you so much Josie,you were so kind and such a skilled musician! Kayte Burrell

Kayte Burrell - November 04, 2024 at 01:46 AM

DS

“ (To: the Family of Josie Crocker Porter)
I am deeply sorry to hear about the passing of your loved one, Josie Crocker Porter. She was one of the top organists at Union Baptist Missionary Church (Shoulders Hill), Suffolk, Virginia, when I was a young person, in one of Union Baptist Missionary Church's youth choirs. At that time, Union Baptist Missionary Church had about five different choirs. She was an excellent organist. She could play all of the old church hymns, as well as contemporary gospel. Thank God, for giving her such an awesome musical gift, and thank her, for sharing it, with us all. May God continue to bless, strengthen, and comfort you all, during this time of loss. (From: Dr. Archie W. Earl, Sr.)

Dr. Archie W. Earl, Sr. - November 04, 2024 at 12:15 AM

VW

“ The JamesE.WynnSr.family extend our sincere condolence to The Crocker & Porter families in the passing of Mrs.Josie Porter. Always such a " sweet soul"(she & her husband). God knows best &always lightens our burden and lights our path. Be encouraged in the LORD & trust His wisdom. He really does care.

Valerie Adrian Wynn - November 03, 2024 at 11:08 PM

LB

“ My sincere condolences to the Crocker and Porter families during this time of bereavement. Mrs. Josie C. Porter's musical gifts will always be cherished and remembered for elevating my worship experience at Ebenezer Baptist Church.
May God Bless you and give you Peace.

Lynn F. Briley

Lynn Briley - November 03, 2024 at 03:37 PM

DB

“ We send our sincere condolences to the Porter/Crocker Families. Soror Josie was a very sweet kind lady.
Sorors Jackie and Delmarene Barnes



Delmarene Barnes - November 03, 2024 at 06:33 AM



“ 40 files added to the album Life Tributes



J. T. Fisher Funeral Services - November 02, 2024 at 09:58 PM

11

“ IC Norcom Class of 1985 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Josie Crocker Porter.

IC Norcom Class of 1985 - November 02, 2024 at 09:23 PM

I1

“ IC Norcom Class of 1985 purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Josie Crocker Porter.



IC Norcom Class of 1985 - November 02, 2024 at 09:23 PM

DF

“ Dorothy, Richelle & The OWH Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Josie Crocker Porter.



Dorothy, Richelle & The OWH Family - November 02, 2024 at 04:29 PM

AW

“ Mrs. Porter was my teacher when I attended Brighton Elementary school. I remember her being a very nice person. I had talked to her a couple times several years ago. May she R.I.P



Annette Wiggins - November 01, 2024 at 07:08 PM

LJ

“ I will always cherish her playing the piano and her allowing me to try to sing with her the gospel song "He Got The Whole World in His Hands." To the family, you're in my thoughts every step of the way because she is not alone and neither are you all. Sending heavenly love to Mrs. Josie C. Porter. Your friend, Loretta

Loretta Jones - November 01, 2024 at 02:45 PM

MS

“ The family of Michael and Eva Sykes have made a donation to the Norfolk State University choirs in memory of Mrs. Porter.

May the Lord comfort you in your time of grief.

Michael H Sykes - November 01, 2024 at 12:53 PM

CM

“ I remember Josie, she and I were in the same graduating class and the music department at Norfolk State College. She was a wonderful person to know.

Clarence Miller - November 01, 2024 at 02:39 AM

BC

“ I remember Josie as my bible school teacher at Ebenezer I sang in the Women's Day choir for two years under her AMAZING LEADERSHIP. My prayers for her Loving son and daughters, sister and brother and other family members, neighbors, friends and the members of Ebenezer Baptist Church. RIH JOSIE.



Brenda Carter - October 31, 2024 at 04:16 PM

JL

“Precious memories, how they linger
How they ever flood my soul.
In the stillness of the midnight
Precious sacred scenes unfold.”

I met Josie Crocker at Norfolk Division of VA State College, now Norfolk State University, around 1960. We were both music majors and remained friends even after graduation when I became an elementary school music teacher in Chesapeake, VA and she eventually became an elementary music teacher in Portsmouth, VA. During our teaching careers as music teachers, Josie and I often shared ideas with each other. We also attended music conferences together. Even after retirement we kept in touch. Whenever there was an opportunity to sing with a choral group, we would end up standing beside each other singing alto. I am truly thankful to God for placing Josie Crocker Porter in my life for so many years. May God's love for the Porter/Crocker family be their comfort and strength in the days ahead.

Josephine Webb Linyear

Josephine Linyear - October 31, 2024 at 12:45 PM



“The Hopson (and extended) family are sending our warmest and most sincere condolences to Adrienne and the Porter family. Your mother was such a beautiful woman and I know her presence will be missed. We are praying for God's continued love, covering, and peace over you all. God bless.

Monica Goode - October 31, 2024 at 12:10 PM

DM

“ I grew up in the same neighborhood as Catherine as she was called in the early years, She was about 4 years older and I was among several younger girls that looked up to her and all her accomplishments. She was a wonderful role model showing all of us what a young woman should be. I send condolences to the Crocker and Porter family as they pass through this tough period. REST IN PEACE, Josie Catherine!

Doris (Lewis) Langaster McNeal

Doris L McNeal - October 31, 2024 at 10:52 AM

W.

“ W.A.Ratcliffe lit a candle in memory of Josie Porter



W.A.Ratcliffe - October 31, 2024 at 10:48 AM

CC

“ My sincere condolences to the family. Josie was such a magnificent individual with a kind demeanor. She was a classmate of my sister, Shirley and organist of Union Baptist Church as a young lady when I was a member and sang in the choir. I admired her for countless attributes. Heaven has gained a jewel. Be comforted in God's promise of "eternal life".



Carolyn Hurdle Cannon - October 31, 2024 at 09:25 AM

KW

“ Leon and I are deeply sorrowful at the passing of Josie. We will remember her sweet personality and the fun times we shared. We rejoice in knowing she is at peace with God and her husband again. May God bless their children. We love you Josie. (Kareen & Leon Windley)

Kareen Windley - October 31, 2024 at 01:39 AM

FB

“ From Vanessa and Velena Beeks planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Josie Crocker Porter.

From Vanessa and Velena Beeks - October 30, 2024 at 07:57 PM

FB

“ From Vanessa and Velena Beeks purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Josie Crocker Porter.



From Vanessa and Velena Beeks - October 30, 2024 at 07:57 PM

LS

“ Leigh M. Burton, Sr lit a candle in memory of Josie Porter



Leigh M. Burton, Sr - October 30, 2024 at 06:50 PM

YS

“ *Condolences and love to the Crocker and Porter families. Mr. and Mrs. Porter were both fifth grade teachers of mine at the Moffett Place School. In later years I would see the attractive couple at NSU performances or at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Mrs. Porter would grace herself at the piano or organ accompanying Keith Bailey or Prince Wallace. Her melodious rendition of It Is Well etched in so many hearts. A beautiful sweet spirit reunited with husband in their heavenly home. Yvette Johnson Simmons*

Yvette Simmons - October 30, 2024 at 11:42 AM

LB

“ *Mrs. Porter was my music teacher at both of the elementary schools that I attended as a child, Highland-Biltmore and Brighton. May she RIP.*

Leigh Burton - October 29, 2024 at 03:56 PM

EM

“ *E.Loretta Miller lit a candle in memory of Josie Porter*



E.Loretta Miller - October 29, 2024 at 01:44 PM

RS

“ It saddens my heart to know that you have gained your wings Aunt Josie. We had some good times growing up. Being so close in age I called you “ Josie” rather than Aunt Josie. I always referred to you as my “ Super 7” aunt when we I reached the age of 24. You know why.

You always stayed in touch even when you didn't feel your best. Your telephone calls were appreciated by Alton who was sicker than you. He really loved talking to you on the phone and always made recognition of your pleasant sounding voice.

Your five sisters and three brothers await your arrival in heaven. I know you will play the piano all around heaven as you, immediate family members, cousins, and other Ebenezer members are singing together once again like you did on earth in the Number 2 and Chancel Choirs at Ebenezer.

Ebenezer Baptist Church will always be reminded of you during worship service. As we sing the welcoming song you created, you will always come to mind.

Take your rest now until we meet again.

Love, Your “ Super 7” Niece Regina Long Southall and Husband Alton Southall.

Regina Long Southall - October 29, 2024 at 04:29 AM