



Fannie Mae Porter

January 28, 1942 - March 24, 2026

The world was first introduced to the lovely Miss Fannie Mae Smith on January 28, 1942. Born to the late Mr. Riley Smith and Mrs. Zelma Parks Smith in College Station, AR. From humble beginnings, Fannie was rooted in a rich legacy of faith and family.

Fannie graduated from J.C. Cook High School in Wrightsville in 1959 and worked at Ottenheimer and Timex. She received her Associates Degree from Arkansas Baptist College and went on to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Excelling in her field, she soon became a trainer for newer colleagues before advancing to become a Registered Nurse (RN). She found a home in General Surgery and worked at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) as the charge nurse for general surgery for over 33 years. During her time at UAMS, she trained many residents who would go on to become excellent surgeons. She later continued her service at St. Vincent before her retirement.

Fannie professed her hope in Christ and was baptized at the Antioch Baptist Church in College Station at an early age. She remained a member of Antioch until she united with St. Mark Baptist Church in Little Rock under the leadership of Bishop Steven M. Arnold and later Pastor Phillip L. Pointer, Sr.

Shortly after graduating high school, Fannie met Mr. Don Porter, a gentle and

handsome young man in the community who would often help her mother and was the brother of her hairdresser, Mrs. Helen Williams Evans. Eventually, Don asked Fannie out, and what began as an introduction soon blossomed into a lifelong love. They were married on February 27, 1961 and would spend the next 50 years together before his passing. Don adored Fannie, and would often remark, "Here comes my pretty woman" whenever she would enter the room.

Their union was blessed with three biological children, Jonathan, Stephanie, and Donald. Later Derrick, and then Leroy, Rhonda, and Selina were added to the mix. The Porter home was a place where friends became family, and many affectionately knew her simply as "Mom."

Though her professional accomplishments were many, Fannie's heart truly belonged to her family. If you were family, you belonged. She cherished time spent with her sisters, laughed joyously with her nieces, and held dear the fond memories of her brothers. She believed in presenting oneself well and instilled in her family the value of a good education coupled with hard work. She loved to see a well-groomed man and never missed her own regular hair and nail appointments until her health no longer allowed it. She was always well put together!

So much could be said about such an amazing woman. In every aspect of her life, Fannie carried herself with poise, strength, and unmistakable presence. Her infectious laugh and radiant smile would light up any room. Her life left an indelible mark on all who knew her. She was strong-willed, fiercely independent, and loved being pampered. To her husband, children, grands, and great-grands, she was their Queen. She wore many hats well, but her most treasured title was that of Grammie.

She adored each of her grandchildren beyond measure and was their biggest

supporter. Whether attending games, graduations, plays, weddings, or celebrations of any kind, if she was able, she was present, offering proud cheers, warm hugs, and loving encouragement. She delighted in keeping up with each of their lives and never missed an opportunity to share just how proud she was of each of them.

Outside of her devotion to her family, Fannie found joy in life's simple pleasures. She was an avid shopper and would seldom pass an opportunity to make a quality purchase. She loved staying current with the latest news and faithfully followed her favorite shows and soap operas. Her spaghetti, porkchops, candied yams, mac-n-cheese, sweet potato pies, German chocolate cakes, pound cakes, and peach cobblers were family favorites and will be missed.

Fannie now joins in eternal rest those who preceded her in death: her doting husband, Don Porter; her parents, Deacon Riley Smith and Zelma Parks Smith; her bonus dad, Homer "Papa Homer" Brown; her stepmother, Euradelle Smith; her paternal grandparents, Clarence Riley Smith and Fannie Haney Smith; her maternal grandparents, Seth Parks and Mattie Jane Elizabeth Gill Parks; her brothers, Lee Chester Brown and Clarence Smith, Sr., and Michael Dixon; her sisters, Corrine Harris Curry, Queen Esther Smith Dennis, Barbra Faye Thornton, Clora Evelyn Smith Hollins Holloway; Zelma Jean Smith Davie Porter, Margaret Ann Smith Abercrombie, Deloris Lewis, and Glendora Dixon.

Left to cherish fond memories of her: her sons Jonathan Keith Porter and Donald Wayne Porter; her daughter Stephanie Gail (Andre) Martin - all of Little Rock. Her bonus sons, Derrick (Shannon) Jackson and Leroy (Ashanti) Ayers and her bonus daughters, Rhonda Holmes and Selina Porter. Her beloved grandchildren: Donna Gail Porter, Donterio Lamar Porter, Andrea Nicole

Martin, Dr. Elissabeth Paige (Jaren, J.D.) Hagler, Sarah Alayne Martin, Donielle Latriece Porter, Seth Andre Martin, and Emani Se'relle Allen. Her great-grandchildren: Jeilyn Stewart, Nyla Early, Hannah Porter, Jaiden Davis, Alyse Porter, Alayah Hagler, Lydia Porter, Aiden Hagler, Zoe Hagler and Delilah Smith. Her sisters: Dr. Jacqueline D. Smith, Classie Brown-Hill, Shirley Brown, Evelyn (Lanzell) Dixon, Debra (Larry) Boner, and Feleecia (Gregory) Jefferson. Special nephews: Sam (Jackie) Hollins, Antoine Gordon, and Clarence Smith, Jr. Special nieces: Patricia McDaniel, Versa Porter, and Donna (Ricky) Houston. A bonus grandson, Kenneth "Javin" (Shari) Fobbs, a host of other nephews, nieces, cousins, extended relatives, classmates, and friends.

Cemetery Details

Rest In Peace Memorial Gardens

6425 Memorial Gardens Rd
Hensley, AR 72065

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 3. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

DL Boyd Funeral Home, LLC
10600 Train Station Dr.
Mabelvale, AR 72103
(501) 246-5913

Service

APR 4. 1:00 PM (CT)

Antioch Full Gospel Baptist Church
3824 Antioch Blvd
College Station, AR 72053

Tribute Wall

LB

“ Love Always, Bianca purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Fannie Mae Porter.



Love Always, Bianca - April 04 at 12:59 AM

LW

“ My condolences to Jonathan Porter and his family on the loss of his mother.

Loretta Weathers - April 03 at 10:54 AM

YC

“ Your friends, Terrie, Lorraine & Chandra purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Fannie Mae Porter.



Your friends, Terrie, Lorraine & Chandra - April 02 at 09:02 PM

KW

“ Kimeko and Dante Washington purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Fannie Mae Porter.



Kimeko and Dante Washington - April 02 at 08:08 AM

FB

“ From Melvin and Jill. God Bless purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Fannie Mae Porter.



From Melvin and Jill. God Bless - April 01 at 05:01 PM

FB

“ From Melvin and Jill. God Bless planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fannie Mae Porter.

From Melvin and Jill. God Bless - April 01 at 05:01 PM



“ Angel's Embrace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Fannie Mae Porter.



April 01 at 03:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Fannie Mae Porter.

April 01 at 03:07 PM

LA

“ My deepest condolences to you Stephanie and your family. Loretta Alexander

Loretta Alexander - March 31 at 08:42 PM

Jl

Sending my deepest Condolences to my family Porter family

Jannette Hamilton from Des Moines iowa - April 02 at 01:10 PM

Jl

Love you Auntie

Jannette Hamilton from Des Moines iowa - April 02 at 01:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Fannie Mae Porter.*



March 31 at 04:44 PM

EF

“ *Eddie and Ruby Mitchell and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Fannie Mae Porter.*



Eddie and Ruby Mitchell and family - March 31 at 12:57 PM



“ *Correction my name is Dwana Smith Mitchell.*

Velvatina Mitchell - March 31 at 11:39 AM



“ Blessings to the family, I will try to be short. I played with her children when we were small on High Street. Poochie, Stephanie and their big brother. I also worked at the hospital and I have shared this with her a time or two, my name is Dwaa. May God comfort and keep you family.

Velvatina Mitchell - March 31 at 11:36 AM

WT

Hello to the Porter Family Johnathan, Stephanie this is the Davis Family I'm Wendy Davis Thompson I really love me some Mrs. Fannie A beautiful sweet Spirit woman of God and her Husband Mr Don't Porter GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN RIL KEEPING you c all lifted up in Prayer. praying 🙏❤️

Wendy Davis Thompson - April 03 at 03:59 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Fannie Mae Porter.

March 29 at 08:53 AM



“ Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Fannie Mae Porter.



March 29 at 08:53 AM

TB

“ Tony & Natalie Banks purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Fannie Mae Porter.



Tony & Natalie Banks - March 27 at 01:59 PM

TB

“ Tony & Natalie Banks planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fannie Mae Porter.

Tony & Natalie Banks - March 27 at 01:59 PM

MR

“ Mary A. Robinson purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Fannie Mae Porter.



Mary A. Robinson - March 27 at 10:54 AM

MR

“ Mary A. Robinson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Fannie Mae Porter.

Mary A. Robinson - March 27 at 10:54 AM



“ *Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Fannie Mae Porter.*



March 27 at 08:10 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Fannie Mae Porter.

March 27 at 08:10 AM



“ *I worked with Mrs. Porter for years at UAMS. We had a wonderful staff and were like family. I thoroughly enjoyed those days. Prayers and condolences to the family.*
Cheryl Roy (Cranford)

Cheryl Roy - March 26 at 06:12 PM



So sorry to hear of the lost of Mrs Porter, Sending my sincere prayers and condolences to the entire Porter family. Janice Hyde 🙏

Janice Hyde - March 26 at 09:16 PM

DF

I met this Angel in Operating Room @ UAMS. We worked years together until she retired. Over the years as our friendship grew, I started calling her Momma. When she would see me coming to her door she would greet me and say there is my daughter She is the most kind heart and caring person I know. She would do anything for anyone. She loved her family with agape love. She lived a fruitful life until her health start to fail her but she still had a smile. I will miss her but she is now with the Lord. Sending all my love, condolences, prayers to the family, especially my new found brother Donald. I pray the family and friends will allow God to cover each of you and give you comfort. God has received an angel and her name is Mrs Fannie Porter. LOVE ALWAYS

Dianne Falls - March 27 at 07:54 AM

TM

Sending my Deepest Condolences to Stephanie and family during this most difficult time. ❤️🙏🌸

Tonya Moore - March 27 at 10:12 AM

KV

I had the privilege of working with Fannie in the operating room at UAMS while a general surgery resident. She taught me many things that I carried forward into my surgical practice. More importantly, she kept me out of trouble with Dr. Westbrook! I have many fond memories of Fannie.

Kurtis S. Vinsant, MD

Kurtis Vinsant - March 29 at 08:34 AM

CM

Our heartfelt condolences to Stephanie, Jonathan, and Donald. Your Mom was an Angel to my family and me. Her kindness, warmth, and love ❤️ touched us deeply. We will forever cherish her memory. ❤️Cora and Priscilla Henson

Cora McClendon - March 29 at 09:48 AM

SP

I met Mrs. Porter working at UAMS. A very kind person and excellent nurse. My condolences to the family. Sonja Poellot

Sonja Poellot - March 30 at 08:55 AM

AK

My deepest condolences to the Porter family on the loss of one of the sweetest and caring humans I have had the privilege to know and work with at UAMS in the Operating Room. She was a leader, mentor and friend and my heart goes out to the family. Prayer of comfort to the family and all those who know and loved her!

Alperdis Keyes - April 03 at 10:50 AM

VL

Your mother kindness and warmth will always be remembered. My thoughts are with you Jonathan and your family.

Vanessa Lewis - April 04 at 04:16 AM