



Shirley Porter

September 11, 1924 - December 5, 2014

Shirley Porter, age 90, of Holland, passed away Friday, December 5, 2014 at Resthaven Care Center in Holland, MI following a ten year battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Shirley was born on September 11, 1924 in Lansing, MI to Peter and Rena Hamelink. She was the valedictorian of Lansing Central High School in 1942 and graduated from Michigan State University in 1946 with high honor as a Kappa Alpha Theta. Shirley married her childhood sweetheart, Fred, in 1946 and they briefly lived in the St. Louis area before settling in Lombard, IL, where they raised their family. In 1982 they moved to Holland, MI and spent the rest of their lives there. She was inquisitive, open-minded, and civically and politically active. She was especially passionate about the League of Women Voters and was a past President of the Lombard LWV. Shirley was the Lombard Service League's "Woman of the Year" in 1973, and in 1976 received a Certificate of Merit for meritorious service in the field of human relations from the Village of Lombard. She was also a school board member in District 87. In Michigan, she received the Florence Belle Brotherton Award from the LWV of the Holland Area in 2003. The Fred and Shirley Porter Award is an annual award made by the LWV-HA to individuals who symbolize the League's mission and who exemplify civic leadership. She received Lifetime Membership awards from the local and national LWV in 2008 for 50 years of service. Shirley was a member of the First Church of Lombard and the First Congregational Church of Saugatuck, MI. Shirley was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Fred Thomas Porter, in 2006;

her parents, and her brother, Richard. Shirley is survived by her: Children
Patricia and Henry Walczak of Holland
Lawrence and Gloria Porter of Holland
David and Pamela Porter of Villa Park, IL Grandson
Douglas Porter of Chicago, IL Brother
William and Betty Hamelink of Bloomington, MN A time of visitation is planned
for 2-5pm Saturday, December 13 at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home,
315 E 16th St., Holland. Memorial contributions may be made to the League
of Women Voters of the Holland Area, PO Box 3183, Holland, MI 49422-3193
or Resthaven Care Center, 280 W 40th St., Holland 49423.

Tribute Wall



“ *Shirley Porter*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"It was always such a pleasure spending time with Sweets....how she giggled, and sang, and did so in her cute dresses with perfect hair! She was so smart! She was delightful and humble, and I miss her, and her bright eyes. I feel honored to have known her."*

Kay Walz - December 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Aunt Shirley was a very kind and brilliant woman who was devoted to her family, her community and the public good. I am so grateful for her love and support and for the inspiration she gave me to work for public education and social justice."*

Ann Rall - December 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *"While my father was slowly losing his awareness of his surroundings and family because of Alzheimer's, Shirley encouraged me to continue visiting my dad as often as I could. She said; "you never know when he will have a clear day and recognize you." She was right, there was a day and it was so precious for me.*

Myrna Dornan"

Myrna Dornan - December 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *“God Bless you Sweet Shirley.”* ”

Dave Draxten - December 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JU

“ *“My cousins, Patty, Larry & David: My Aunt Shirley is remembered as a very kind, sweet person. When we were kids & visiting you I remember she always had a smile and was always very nicely dressed. I will never forget the last time my dad & I visited how concerned she was even for the outside kitties. I love you,”* ”

Jan unger - December 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *“Shirley was in my life longer than anyone other than my brothers. What better proof than that to show what a charmed life mine has been? God bless you, dear Shirley!”* ”

Brian Hanson - December 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ *“If I were to pick one word to describe my Aunt Shirley, it would be this: BEAU-TI-FUL! She was a beautiful woman inside and out! Patty, Larry & David, please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.”* ”

Pam Hamelink Clark - December 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *“What an inspiration Shirley was to all of us in the League of Women Voters! She (and Fred) were the glue that often held the group together. I will always remember her as a classy lady - and dear friend. She will be missed!”* ”

Marilyn Schmidt - December 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CS

“Women like Mrs Potter make us all proud to be members of LWV.”

Christina Schlitt - December 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JU

“Patty, Dave, and Larry - Mrs. "P" as we called her was the most wonderful person. She was such a good friend to our Mom and to us. Peace to all of you and much love. Judy (Aeschleman) Beatty”

Judy - December 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MM

“Shirley Hamelink Porter was a childhood friend of my mother, Patricia Planck Murningham, and I've many fond memories of her and her parents from back in the day in Lansing, Michigan. Mom adored her, for good reason; so did we. Even though she and Bob lived in Holland, she and Mom remained in regular contact (this was before email, texting, and mobile phones!). Her lifetime of public service (shared with Fred), her keen intellect and kind heart, her downright goodness and grace, are qualities to emulate. May she rest in peace, and may she and Mom find each other again, sharing and making new memories, and watching over those of us who love them. My heartfelt condolences to Shirley's family. She was a helluva gal.”

Marcy Murningham - December 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AS

“Mrs. Porter was our Sunday School teacher at the First Church of Lombard. She will be remembered fondly for her kind heart. May memories of happier times remain forever in your hearts.”

Alan and Vicki Stiemann - December 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM