



Robert Preston Porter

October 6, 1946 - November 17, 2020

LCpl. Bob Porter concluded his final tour of duty with us on November 17, 2020. Born “Robert Preston Porter” on October 6, 1946 in Charlotte, Mich. to the late Lawrence “Buster” and Hilda Jackson Porter, Bob spent his formative years throughout the mid-Michigan area – in Sunfield, Eaton Rapids and Charlotte. He graduated from Charlotte High School in 1965. By the time he was 21, he’d already enlisted in the Marines and was fighting on the ground in Vietnam from Da Nang to the DMZ.

His service with the U.S. Marines during that time confirmed his commitment to his country and allowed him to establish lifelong friendships around the world. He forged, maintained, and strengthened relationships through his involvement with the Marine Corps League, Kiwanis Service Organization and the business he operated for four decades – Lansing’s Insty-Prints West on Saginaw Highway.

Bob was the consummate friend... loyal, honorable, forgiving and faithful, but firm and resolute. He seldom asked for much, yet willingly gave when asked. He knew the meaning of friendship and the value of a person’s word. His gruff, chiseled exterior and graveled voice were offset by his love for his family that included siblings, step-children and grandkids.

He epitomized the Marine Corps Motto... *Semper Fidelis* (Always Faithful).

Bob is survived by two sisters, Judy (Ed) Brooks of Colorado Springs, CO and Susan Heisley of New Albany, IN; brother, James (Amy) Porter; step-children, Julie Poe, Michelle (Kevin) Schroll and Michael (Hope) Poe; aunt, Hope (Fred)

Hart of Sunfield; two grandkids; and multiple nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Don and Jim "Pete" Porter; sister, Janet Porter; and his wife, Rachel Poe Porter.

Visitation is Friday, November 20 from 5-8:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Mask, group capacity (no more than 25 people at a time) and social distancing guidelines will be observed. Please be considerate of others during this time. Funeral Services are Saturday, November 21, at 11 AM at the funeral home with Laura Cooper as celebrant. Interment will take place at Maple Hill Cemetery in Charlotte.

The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to www.prayfuneral.com, click on Robert's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone).

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to Eaton Community Palliative Care or Siren-Eaton Shelter. Memories and moments can be shared on Bob's Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **20**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Ceremony

NOV **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Robert Preston Porter*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 21, 2020 at 10:57 AM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert Preston Porter*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 19, 2020 at 06:55 PM

AP

“ Words cannot express the hole you'll leave in our lives... Whenever I wanted to feel close to my dad I knew I could always come see you and you knew just what to say. You believed in me from day one, you supported and sponsored my racing career. I remember you joking around saying " if insty-prints is gonna be on your car, ya better win" lol.. I honored that with 7 championships under your sponsorship. I remember you picking me up and taking me to car shows and to get taco bell and we always got the exact same thing! An I'll never forget the look on my moms face when you sent me home with Sir Mix A Lots tape of "baby got back"... To many memories to count and you'll always be in our hearts. Driving down west Saginaw is gonna take some getting used to.. I always looked for the caddy and if it was there I stopped...

I'm sorry we didn't get our family dinner we talked about for a long time.

Say hi to dad and the rest of the family for me.

I love you Uncle Bob

Semper Fi 

Andrew Porter - November 21, 2020 at 08:43 PM

LR

“ Our deepest condolences from Indiana, we are thinking about you and the family. From nephew Stephen Roberts' family - Stephen + Lupita, children: Coco, Jack, Wynne and Teddy.

Lupita Roberts - November 21, 2020 at 11:14 AM

DM

“ *Cousin Bob...I remember Grandma Jack (Golda Jackson) getting letters from you while in Nam. She looked forward to hearing from you and I remember your Military picture sitting on her table with all of her other grandkids. When we'd go visit her, she'd always tell us when she received a letter from you. We would always take a deep breath knowing you were ok. All of us little cousins looked up to you, or I did, because you were so dang tall. When you would come to visit, we would always say "pick me up" and then you'd put us on your shoulders and twirl us around as we laughed and screamed. I will miss my visits back to Lansing as I tried to make a stop at your workplace to say Hello and talk about the world's problems. From stories I've heard and pictures I've seen, I think you were allot like our Grandpa Frank Jackson whom I never got to meet. Thank you for your Service and caring for others. Love Dawn (Franks) Minerick*

Dawn Minerick - November 21, 2020 at 08:17 AM

JB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jeff Brooks - November 20, 2020 at 10:05 PM

JB

“ *Uncle Bob. I remember you giving me a job when i needed one. I worked for you for almost a year. Best time ever. I thank you for that. I also remember every time i came to visit you would take me and my wife to dinner. Every time you picked up the check, the one time I got it you just shook your head. I am glad you got to meet my kids and my grandkids. You will always be a great uncle to me. Thank you for being you.*

Jeff Brooks - November 20, 2020 at 10:02 PM

BL

“ For my best friend Bob Porter...

My memories of Bob Porter are some of the best memories of my life. I was often the “sit-in” poker player for those famous monthly get togethers. They allowed me to play. I was not nearly the poker player compared to Dick Lux, my twin brother or Bob. It was supposed to be “in fun” but those two were deadly and serious when it came to playing the game.

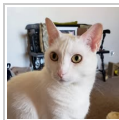
Bob and I never had an argument. His best quality was his trustworthiness and his willingness to take you just as you were without judgment. He knew the worst and the best of me, and he accepted all of it. I considered him my best friend. We both knew what it was like to lose a brother and we were able to share in that loss. We drank together but both of us fortunately decided to give it up.

I believe with all my heart that he should have been honored with a medal for his actions in Vietnam. He was 100% loyal to the Corp, to those in his unit and to his friends. Bob didn't often share stories about Vietnam, but he did tell me about the night that he had to cross a river to save a wounded Marine on the other side. I can't imagine what it was like to cross the river in the middle of the night, with enemies all around and a wounded Marine that needed to get back across the river. He was also at the Battle of Khe Sanh. He left Charlotte a young man and returned a wounded man with a piece of his a soul that stayed in Vietnam.

He continually tried to comfort me even during the last days of his life. He would say to me “It's almost over” attempting to relieve my anxiety. For all of us who knew and loved him, he died with grace. I'll miss him, but I know he is with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Bob Lux

Bob Lux - November 20, 2020 at 08:33 PM



Bob, thanks for sharing this. These are stories I haven't heard.
Shawn Brooks

Shawn Brooks - November 20, 2020 at 08:39 PM

RM

Bob, well said. I lost track of Bob from HS. He was a good guy.
Ralph Miller

Ralph Miller - November 20, 2020 at 09:49 PM

AF

“ *Bob Porter and his lifetime buddies* 🕊️



Angie Ferguson - November 20, 2020 at 01:05 PM

DG

“ *Thank you for your service Bob!*



Dawn Van Gelder - November 20, 2020 at 06:33 AM

SP

“ You came into our lives in 1983 when you moved back to Charlotte after living in Hawaii for thirteen years. You moved in with us, came to work with me at Insty-Prints, learned the business and we bought it in 1984. With the help of Angie, Jamie Atkins, Diane Clinton, Shawn Tew and many friends, we worked our butts off to make our business a success.

You loved my children, Angie and Jeff Ferguson and Valerie, Junior, and Scott Visger like they were your own and they loved you. Your grandson Keagan Preston was named after you and you enjoyed all your grandchildren so much.

We married in 1985, my family all loved you, sadly divorced in 1995 but remained good friends and spent quality time together until the end of your days on earth. Thanks for the great memories, Bob.

Love always,

Sharon

Sharon Pakosz - November 20, 2020 at 06:32 AM

MP

“ The one memory of Bob that I just can never forget. I was headed out one Friday night. Bob and my mother had just started dating. My mother, Rachael, says to me, "when will you be back? I said I was unsure, maybe midnight. Then that deep voice we all know of speaks..."Michael, be home at 10." I laughed, and said really? No response from Bob, just a stare. Guess what, I was home at 9:50 that night! From age 15 and on, Bob has been a big part of my life. I was fortunate to live with him for many years while I maneuvered my way through the college years. He and my mother always supported my decisions and made sure I was on the right path. He came into my life when i needed that direction and I will always be thankful for him being there not only for me, but for my mother as well. He treated me like a son, but we never called it that. He was always Bob and I was always Michael. What I will cherish the most...our Fantasy Football years. Sitting at Billy's on Draft day with Jeff, Chet and many more. Those guys didn't realize it, but I was so happy to be a part of the group and being able to talk Football all season. I also want to mention, Bob was a wonderful Grandpa. My boys loved Grandpa Porter. He was a fun Grandpa and those are the best ones. We love you Bob/Grandpa. You will be missed, but never forgotten.

Michael, Hope, Landon, and Easton Poe

Michael Poe - November 19, 2020 at 09:25 PM



“ 30 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - November 19, 2020 at 06:54 PM



“ *Jim, Don and Bob! The Porter Boys!*



Dawn Van Gelder - November 19, 2020 at 04:13 PM



“ *Joe Bristol, Bob Porter and Mike Maury*



Angie Ferguson - November 19, 2020 at 01:09 PM

AF

“ *Bob Porter and Dan Walker 2018*



Angie Ferguson - November 19, 2020 at 12:43 PM

AF

“ *Through my 2+ years of battling 4th stage stomach, ovarian and colon cancer.*

*I want to Thank you for helping my Mom,
for calling weekly to see how my surgery's or chemotherapy was going.*

So blessed to have had you for a Dad even if as a teenager I gave you hell! Somebody had to keep you on your toes!

*Give Rachel a big hug, we always loved her too! God Bless
Angie Ferguson, Bob's 1st daughter!*

Angie Ferguson - November 19, 2020 at 12:19 PM

BL

Well said Angie, You and Dawn are a lot alike.....B

Bob lux - November 21, 2020 at 09:48 PM

SB

“ *Uncle Bob, I am so glad that Tiffany and I got to see you just a few years ago. You were always the "cool uncle"! I also treasured that you and I had the Marine Corps in common! May you now rest in peace Marine and we'll take the watch from here!*

Semper Fi! Love ya!

Shawn

Shawn Brooks - November 19, 2020 at 11:04 AM

RM

“ Bob was a good friend during our high school years. Only saw him once after HS at a reunion. Good guy.
Ralph Miller

Ralph Miller - November 19, 2020 at 10:53 AM

KD

“ Bob and I had a silly relationship,(I worked for him for a year), He couldn't wait for me to get to work so he could get on the intercom and yell "KATY YOUR FIRED" I WOULD LAUGH AND TELL HIM " YOU CAN FIRE ME I QUIT". This had been his favorite thing to do every since. I'm going to miss you Bob and I was never Fired by a better Person. Love Ya My Friend!



Kathryn Davis - November 19, 2020 at 09:41 AM

SW

You were a good friend to my Bob. He loved going to the casino and playing poker with you. I am sure he is dealing the cards now.

Sandy Wood - November 19, 2020 at 01:17 PM

MS

Kevin and i will miss u deeply bob. U have been a great step dad to all 3 of us. We love u lots and glad you are reunited with our mom!

Michelle Schroll - November 19, 2020 at 01:45 PM

JD

I met Bob in the 80's as a wife of one of his Marine buddies, Mike Mowry. We had a lot of good times, and my daughters loved him like a favorite uncle. Yes, he was gruff but that was just Bob and you still loved him. You just had to give him back the same and when he laughed it was contagious. I am sorry for his loss for his family as watching the video you could see the softness he had. I am glad you are back with Rachael now. Have some good times up there. Judy Mowry d'Anton

Judy Mowry d'Anton - November 19, 2020 at 07:50 PM