



## Alton Merton Porter, Jr.

March 20, 1927 - May 28, 2016

COLEBROOK, NH — Alton ‘Merton’ Porter, Jr., 89, of Colebrook, left this life on Saturday evening, May 28, 2016, at his home in Colebrook, in the presence of his family and after a long period of declining health.

He was born in Errol on March 20, 1927, the eldest child of the late Alton and Arvilla (Sweatt) Porter. At the age of 14, Merton was the janitor at the Errol School. He arrived early to light the fires, attended school there, and then drove loads of pulp wood to Berlin in the evening, two years before he could legally have a driver’s license. In 1944, at the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served with honor with the American occupation force in Japan at the end of World War II, and in the Navy Reserve until the Korean conflict.

Following his military service, Merton completed training in auto mechanics at Robert’s Technical School in Boston in 1952, and then worked with his dad at Porter & Sons Garage along the Mohawk River. It was there that he caught the attention of a persistent young woman, Pearl Beauchemin, who would come by frequently to “top off” the gas tank of her dad’s taxi. They discovered their home during a Sunday afternoon walk in the woods. Merton and Pearl were married at the Trinity United Methodist Church on May 9, 1953, and celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary just two weeks ago. They had six devoted children and filled their home with happy memories and laughter.

Merton held many jobs over the years to support his growing family, two of the most notable were WeLog, Inc. and the State of NH Department of Transportation, where he wrapped up his career retiring in 1989. Merton understood how mechanical things worked, could fix anything, and spent many years in 4-H sharing his knowledge with children in Colebrook. He loved games, telling stories, being with people and making them laugh. He loved his family and he loved to sing.

Merton is survived by his wife, Pearl (Beauchemin) Porter of Colebrook; and their six children, Ruth and husband Alain Bouchard of Epping, NH, Lloyd Porter and wife Nancy of Gorham, ME, Nathan Porter and his wife Margaret of Newmarket, NH, Cindy Hicks and husband David of Colebrook, Mark Porter and wife Audra of Colebrook, and Faith Angevine and husband Michael of Stewartstown; six grandchildren, Renee and Thomas Bouchard, Kevin and Eric Porter, and David and Christopher Hicks; two great-grandchildren, Carson and Jackson Hicks; and five sisters, Alda Barnett and husband Malcolm of Errol, Lois Smith of Newport, VT, Eva Byard and husband Terry of Clarksville, TN, Mildred Pelletier of Swanzey, NH, and Sheila Beauchemin and husband Keith of Colebrook; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by two brothers, Norman and Wendell Porter, and two sisters, Arvilla 'Evelyn' Grenier and Gloria Sweatt.

Calling hours will be on Saturday, June 4, 2016, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook, with a graveside committal and military honors to immediately follow in the Colebrook Village Cemetery at 3 p.m. He will be carried by family and close friends to his final resting place. Following the service a celebration of his life will be held.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to [www.jenkinsnewman.com](http://www.jenkinsnewman.com).

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home, Colebrook, NH.

# Cemetery Details

## Colebrook Village Cemetery

North Main Street, U.S. Route 3  
Colebrook, NH

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 4. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home  
103 Main Street  
Colebrook, NH

## Service

JUN 4. 3:00 PM (ET)

Colebrook Village Cemetery  
North Main Street, U.S. Route 3  
Colebrook, NH

# Tribute Wall

YW

“ *I am sorry for your loss.*



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**Yvonne Willey** - March 07, 2024 at 02:55 PM

BM

“ *Dear Pearl and family,  
I was sorry to read of your loss. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Barbara McKinnon, Tombstone AZ*

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**Barbara McKinnon** - June 02, 2016 at 11:51 AM

SM

“ *Our deepest sympathy to all. May all the good memories help in this time of sadness.  
Sue and Fred*

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**Sue Miller** - June 02, 2016 at 08:24 AM

MU

“ *My prayers are with the family for the loss of their loved one. It is not an easy thing to go through, but remembering the good times, will help you get through these hard times. I didn't know him personally, but I had heard about him over the years, and it was all good. My sympathy to all. Mary Ellen Uran*

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**Mary Ellen Uran** - June 01, 2016 at 06:49 PM

PV

“ Pearl, my condolences to you and your family. I have many memories of visiting whenever I got to Colebrook. His fantastic sense of humor will be missed.  
Phil

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**Philip Verratti** - June 01, 2016 at 06:11 PM

CB

“ Dear Pearl and family, I am so sorry to hear of Merton's passing. He was a loved and honored friend, and will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched. My sympathy and prayers to all of you.  
Sincerely, with love,  
Carol M. Bartlett

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**Carol Bartlett** - June 01, 2016 at 02:07 PM

BN

“ My condolences to all of the Porter family. I will always remember Merton. He will be missed!

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**Bobby Noyes** - June 01, 2016 at 05:47 AM

LM

“ The family of Gloria Parkhurst wishes to send our condolences to all the Porter family during this time of profound sadness. Our prayers are with you. ❤️

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**Lori MacDonald** - June 01, 2016 at 05:07 AM

HH

“ Our deepest condolences go out to the family on your loss.

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**Haven & Peggy Haynes** - May 31, 2016 at 10:42 PM

DC

“ Growing up in Colebrook we all knew the Porter family. Mr. and Mrs. Porter were our 4H leaders. They are a very giving family. We all have many wonderful memories of 4H meetings at their house on Titus Hill.

Our sincere sympathies to Pearl, Lloyd, Ruth, who was in my class, Cindy, Nathan, Faith, Mark and families. May the memories of your husband/father/grandfather help get you all through this sad time. We all feel your loss.....

*Darlene Klebe Cote' & family*

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**Darlene Cote** - May 31, 2016 at 08:10 PM

JD

“ Thoughts and prayers for the family of uncle Merton. He will always be remembered by me for his great sense of humor. Always happy and smiling.

*Joyce (grenier) Davis*



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**joyce davis** - May 31, 2016 at 02:50 AM

GJ

“ Cindy & David - many thoughts and prayers for you and all the family at this time of loss for you all.

*Ginger Jannenga*

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**Ginger Jannenga** - May 30, 2016 at 04:56 PM

BS

“ Our sincere condolences to the Porter Family for your loss of Uncle Merton. He will be remembered in special ways and we will never forget his smile and how he kept others smiling. Diane and Brad

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**Bradford Sweatt** - May 30, 2016 at 04:37 PM

FA

“ Our deepest sympathies to Pearl, Ruth, Lloyd, Nathan, Mark, Faith and Cindy and the entire family. Faith and Wally Adair

Faith Adair - May 30, 2016 at 11:25 AM



“ Ralph and I would sincerely like to offer our sympathies to your entire family on the passing of Mr. Porter. We know first hand this week with the passing of my mother a week ago, how hard it is to lose and miss a parent or spouse. I didn't know Mr. Porter well, but I know he was well loved by his family. I enjoyed having Mrs. Porter as a teacher in high school and for 4-H. Our prayers for comfort and strength go out to the whole family. Norine Sabine (Norine Parkhurst Sabine)

Norine Sabine - May 30, 2016 at 11:10 AM

DD

“ My deepest sympathy and prayers for the entire family. Merton was like a dad to me. He will be greatly missed. DeeDeeDavis



deedee davis - May 30, 2016 at 10:37 AM

Jeffrey Gould

“ Our sympathies and prayers to the entire family.

Jeffrey Gould - May 30, 2016 at 08:44 AM

LM

“ *Our sincere and deepest sympathy to all the Porter family. Our prayers are with you. Lori (Parkhurst) and Jim MacDonald. Lisbon, NH*

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**Lori MacDonald** - May 30, 2016 at 08:20 AM

PJ

“ *Phil And Jan lit a candle in memory of Alton Merton Porter, Jr.*



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**Phil and Jan** - May 30, 2016 at 08:06 AM