



## Mr. Leo Porter

November 22, 1951 - December 15, 2013

Leo Porter was born on November 22, 1951 in Port Huron, Michigan to the union of Joseph A. Porter and Cassie B. Sims.

He started taking piano and baritone saxophone lessons in 1963. While at Port Huron High School, Leo played the baritone and tenor saxophones, in the concert, marching and jazz bands. His first professional performance was in 1967 with The Dynamic Souls. Leo studied music at Grand Valley State University. While there he became a member of the Kenny Gordon Jazz Orchestra (Grand Rapids), the Larry Bird Big Band (Muskegon), the Eloy Biaz Latino Orchestra (Grand Rapids), the Johnny Rodriguez Band (Farmington Hills), and the Robert Abate Band (St. Clair Shores). Leo taught saxophone, beginner piano and music theory for both instruments. He is a City of Detroit employee in the Municipal Parking Division and currently plays with The 2nd Chance Band and The Doors Cover Blues Band (saxophone, flute).

Leo left Grand Rapids and moved to Detroit. He was employed by the City Detroit Municipal Parking, where he was a Revenue Collector. Additionally, he was employed at Mariners Inn as a drug counselor.

He was an avid musician. He played with various local bands, The Brothers, who played for Gracious Saviour Lutheran Church Concerts and Free Style, who played for the annual event, "Jazz On The Lawn." He also provided his

expertise in music as mentor to the Children's Enrichment Program at Gracious Saviour Lutheran Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Lakeside Cemetery

100 McMorran Blvd  
Port Huron, MI 48060

# Previous Events

## Visitation

Sunday, Dec. **22**. 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home  
17600 Plymouth Road  
Detroit, MI 48227  
(313) 838-9770  
info@pyefuneralhome.com

## Family Hour

Monday, Dec. **23**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Gracious Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church  
19484 James Couzens  
Detroit, MI 48235

## Funeral Service

Monday, Dec. **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Gracious Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church  
19484 James Couzens  
Detroit, MI 48235



# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Leo Porter*

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January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Became acquainted with Leo in 1976, when i moved to Grand Rapids, MI. Some months later, I moved unknowingly next door to him. He became one of my best friends. I remember so vividly the hours we spent together talking about world events but especial- music that was his passion. Even moving to Detroit never stopped our keeping in touch.*

*Leo overcame some difficult obstacles and was in control of his life.*

*I had'nt been able to contact Leo for several months and from a mutual friend learned this morning of his passing. His presence with his good naturedness and voice have played all day in my mind. I'm in a little shock.*

*My prayers are with the Porter family. Pray you're in the Lords presence Leo,*

*Harry E. Cartwright*

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**Harry E. Cartwright** - May 08, 2014 at 06:12 PM

GE

“ *My soul aches. Though we had lost contact over the years, Leo and I recently reconnected and I had been looking forward to somehow working with him musically. Though he was light years ahead of me, he encouraged me and agreed to evaluate me if I sent recordings to him from California. We began to play instruments in 7th grade at Grant School, and he took to the sax like a fish to water. During our school years, we played football, basketball, track and wrestling, and performed in neighborhood bands, and he was always great at whatever he did. It tickles me to recall that I took his Detroit Free Press paper route from him in Port Huron back in 10th grade. Just this past August, Leo checked out a sax for me that I was going to buy from Marshall's. Knowing that I would need it done, he brought his alto mouthpiece with him to Port Huron, and saved me from buying something I would not have been happy with. I still have an August voice mail from him and the photos and video I took at Mrs. Stanley's 90th celebration. R.I.P. my brother.*

*Greg Evans*

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**Greg Evans** - December 20, 2013 at 08:40 PM

JJ

*It took me this long to be able to say something. And now I realize I still don't know what to say. Leo was my best friend. He was my best man at my wedding. I have played around the world with "world class-big named musicians and 1) it is all because of Leo 2) he was honesty one of the best I've ever performed with. Although I grew with jazz in my house, Leo led me to being a jazz musician. We played a lot together, he was John Coltrane and I was Elvin Jones. We played through high school together, went to Scotland, Wales, and England together with the PHS jazz band together as part of the "Soul Patrol"(Leo, Charles Stanley, James Stanley,Harold Watson), We played at JC together. We played with local groups led by Charlie and and many others. Experiences and events are too numerous to mention. I am just so happy that I was able to play with him last August at mother's (Marguerite Stanley) birthday celebration. Little did I know that it would be the last time. I'll miss him. I miss him now.*

*James P. Stanley Jr. (Jimmy)*

*Friend*

*Percussionist*

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**James P. Stanley Jr.** - August 23, 2014 at 01:56 AM

JB

“ *JOAN BURRELL lit a candle in memory of Mr. Leo Porter*



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**JOAN BURRELL** - December 20, 2013 at 10:54 AM