



Edwina Porter Bunch

January 6, 1929 - October 15, 2020

“This is Tennessee. It is bordered on the West by the Mississippi River. It is bordered on the East by the Appalachian Mountains.” If you were a 7th grade Tennessee History student in the Lexington City School System in the mid-50s-early 80s, this is how the introduction to TN History began by Mrs. Edwina Bunch. It was evident that she loved her state and its history and before 7th grade was over, so did many of her students, and they remembered so much of what she taught them through her stories and her engagement of them in their learning. “She was my favorite teacher.” “She believed in me more than I believed in myself.” “I love history to this day because of Mrs. Bunch.” “And every Halloween I try my best to recall the story of the Bell Witch of Robertson County to tell my children (now my grandchildren) because Mrs. Bunch painted such a vivid picture of that haunting.” These are but a sampling of the accolades that have been sent to the family upon hearing of Mrs. Bunch’s death on October 15, 2020. But even as notable as her teaching influence were those quiet, private gestures of love she gave to students who may have needed socks or shoes, a new shirt or blouse, a comb or brush. “My family didn’t have much. They did the best they could. Mrs. Bunch gave me things, never in front of the others, to help us out. She made me feel as important as any other kid in her class. I have never forgotten her.” These acts of kindness make a teacher memorable even more than their expertise in the classroom. Edwina Bunch had both.

Edwina Faye Porter was one of 9 children born to the late Ira “Boss” and Kate Porter from the Coxville Community in Crockett County, Tennessee. She learned early that hard work was important and that everyone should work hard. Edwina graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1951, and her blood ran orange until the night of her death. She married her sweetheart, Thomas “Buster” Bunch, on October 7, 1950, and they spent 62 years of adventures together until his death in 2012. They loved following UT sports of any type (on the radio, in person, and on TV), fishing on Beech Lake and traveling...from simple tent camping when Porter and Bryan were small to six-week treks out west with the Montgomery and Hinson families to foreign countries with David Hinson as the tour guide for the Bunches, Nancy Hinson, Dorothy Douglass, and Lottie Lee Hay. Edwina was active in the UT Alumni Association serving as Henderson County Alumni President, UTM Advisory Council, UT Women’s Council, UT Board of Governors and VP of the UT National Alumni Association. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church, the Deborah Sunday School Class, and the United Methodist Women. And until her confinement because of Covid-19, she was an active member of 3 bridge clubs in Lexington.

Prior to moving to NorthCliff Assisted Living in January 2020, Mrs. Bunch lived alone after her husband’s death in 2012. Many home health professionals would come home to take care of her during this time, but as one nurse told the family: “All of us from Home Health and I will forever treasure all the great visits we had with Mrs. Bunch. We just THOUGHT that we were there to take care of her. Little did we know, Edwina was determined to take care of US! There was not one visit that passed without her delighting in giving us a special treat that she had made. She would always warm it in the microwave and insist that we ate it while it was still warm. She was a joy to know.”

In addition to her husband and parents, Mrs. Bunch was preceded in death by her siblings: Dr. Ira Porter, Dr. Nathan Porter, King Porter, Wayne Porter, Dr.

Huey Porter, Annie Laura James, and Ida Mae Feldman.

Survivors to celebrate her life include, two sons, Porter (Susie) Bunch, Bryan (Winnie) Bunch both of Lexington; one sister, Erie Kate McCord of Humboldt; three grandchildren, Tom Bunch (Lori) of Huron, Drew Bunch (Rhonnie) of Franklin, Sara Bunch (Aryn Murji) of Nashville. And Edwina's joy of joys...her three great-grandchildren: Abigail Bunch, Zoe Bunch, and Buster Bunch.

A private graveside service will be held for the family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the First United Methodist Church or the charity of their choice.

While Edwina's family and friends are sad at her passing, they know this to be true: Buster's hand was outstretched to welcome his girl to heaven, while somewhere in the distance, "Moonlight Serenade" was playing, and they danced all the way to the ballroom.

Tribute Wall

TA

“ Thomas Austin lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch



Thomas Austin - October 31, 2020 at 12:39 PM

BC

“ Brenda Casey lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch



Brenda Casey - October 23, 2020 at 06:18 PM

SS

“ Edwina and I had our lunch break together during the years that I taught at Caywood. She was always a light and a bit of fun in the middle of my day. My deepest condolences to her family.
Sylvia Stone



Sylvia Stone - October 22, 2020 at 09:54 AM

LE

“ *Ms. Bunch was a sweet heart....she was also my History teacher...would like to give my deepest sympathy to her family...so sorry to hear of her passing* 🥺



Linda Elam - October 21, 2020 at 03:01 AM

CR

“ *Cotton Rhodes lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch*



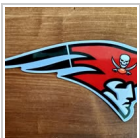
Cotton Rhodes - October 20, 2020 at 08:15 PM

PF

“ *I remember Mrs bunch she was. My 7 grade teacher she was a wonderful and beautiful lady*



Peggy woods fitzpateick - October 20, 2020 at 04:53 PM



“ *John Summers purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Edwina Porter Bunch.*



John Summers - October 20, 2020 at 04:26 PM



“ *John Summers lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch*



John Summers - October 20, 2020 at 04:20 PM

SB

John, the flowers were beautiful Edwina would have loved them! She loved the Summers/Ramer family dearly. She and Buster and Stevie and Dr. Ramer surely enjoyed each other's company. She especially enjoyed a visit with one of Stevie's sons when they could get to Tennessee. Thank you for being so kind to Edwina. You all meant the world to her. Susie.

Susan Crook Bunch - October 25, 2020 at 09:11 AM

SW

“ *Thoughts and Prayers are with the family. What a super teacher and what a super person Ms. Bunch was.*

Steve Wilkinson - October 20, 2020 at 10:31 AM

DD

“ *I moved to Lexington in 1968 from Michigan and knew nothing about Tennessee history. Mrs. Bunch had such a passion for teaching Tennessee History that I became an instant Tennessee History fan. She was kind and compassionate and she was a GREAT Teacher. She was a blessing to all those that were privileged to have been her students.*

Dale Dodd - October 20, 2020 at 08:27 AM

KP

“ Keith & Debbie Patterson lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch



Keith & Debbie Patterson - October 20, 2020 at 07:06 AM

WS

“ What a beautiful tribute! May God bless the Bunch family.

wanda shelton - October 20, 2020 at 06:01 AM

MT

“ Marvin Taylor lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch



Marvin Taylor - October 19, 2020 at 11:03 PM

AM

“ I'm so grateful that I had the opportunity to meet Memaw. Sara had always described her as a strong woman that was passionate about her Lady Vols. This became evident the day I met her but from that point on, I learned much more about her. Memaw's warmth in welcoming me as part of her family lingers still to this day. She enjoyed feeding both Sara and me - boy, did she enjoy that! Anytime I have corn or rolls I'll remember Memaw though they won't ever quite measure up to hers. Once again, I am eternally grateful for the opportunity we had to get to know each other as family and I will always remember her as such.

Amyn - October 19, 2020 at 10:47 PM

YP

*I didn't know Mrs Bunch until my granddaughter Rhonnie married Drew. That was when I knew Rhonnie had such a wonderful family. That she would be loved as one of their own. Ms. Bunch was such a highlight to know. We knew her brothers and sisters in Crockett county but until Rhonnie and Drew married I never had the pleasure to be introduced to such a fine lady.
My prayers are with the family!*

Yvonne Parlow - October 20, 2020 at 07:56 AM

DB

“ Mrs. Bunch was a lovely, elegant lady and a 'no-nonsense' teacher who knew how to make us hungry to learn and proud to be Tennesseans! Somehow, as I got older....she stayed the same....and became a friend too. A very wise woman told me years ago that the secret to a long happy life is to continue to make younger friends. Edwina made friends, young and old, throughout her life. She will be missed....and forever remembered. May those sweet memories bring comfort and peace to all those she loved....and yes, I too, can see her dancing into heaven's ballroom on Buster's arm.

Dian Brown - October 19, 2020 at 08:05 PM

CK

“ Charlotte Kizer lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch



Charlotte Kizer - October 19, 2020 at 07:53 PM

PU

“ Pat Ubelhor lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch



Pat ubelhor - October 19, 2020 at 09:06 AM

RS

“ Rhonda Sanders sent a virtual gift in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch



Rhonda Sanders - October 18, 2020 at 01:57 PM



“ Janice Houston lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch



Janice Houston - October 18, 2020 at 01:01 AM

BP

“ Brenda Pfountz lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch



Brenda Pfountz - October 17, 2020 at 09:38 AM

SC

“ *Sheila Sparkman Caldwell lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch*



Sheila Sparkman Caldwell - October 17, 2020 at 09:37 AM

MR

“ *Mary Ann Rhodes lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch*



Mary Ann Rhodes - October 16, 2020 at 10:27 PM

TR

“ *Tim Rhodes lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch*



Tim Rhodes - October 16, 2020 at 10:25 PM

EA

“ *Eddie Akins lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch*



Eddie Akins - October 16, 2020 at 10:06 PM

KT

“ *Kathy Maness Thomas lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch*



Kathy Maness Thomas - October 16, 2020 at 08:30 PM

KB

“ *She was my teacher. Loved her. So very sorry*

katherine beecham - October 16, 2020 at 08:02 PM

DK

“ *I have such warm country club memories of Miss Edwinas grace and class. Prayers of strength and comfort to the family.*

Donna kenny-seaman - October 16, 2020 at 07:35 PM

IF

“ *Imogene Frye lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch*



imogene frye - October 16, 2020 at 04:45 PM

BD

“ *Barbara Dyer lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch*



Barbara Dyer - October 16, 2020 at 04:13 PM

DS

“ *Dennis And Nancy Stovall lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch*



Dennis and Nancy Stovall - October 16, 2020 at 02:24 PM

DD

“ *Donna Darrough lit a candle in memory of Edwina Porter Bunch*



Donna Darrough - October 16, 2020 at 01:32 PM

MD

My love and sympathy to all of you. May God wrap His arms around you and give you great strength to endure your grief.

Mary Lou Dobbins - October 20, 2020 at 09:51 PM