



## Kenneth Royce Porter

February 16, 1944 - June 16, 2023

Porter, Kenneth Royce, of Cedar Hill, Missouri was born February 16, 1944 in Portland, Oregon to Lauren and Phyllis (nee Deplois) Porter and entered into rest Friday, June 16, 2023 in Cedar Hill, Missouri at the age of 79 years.

He is preceded in death by, his parents;

his first spouse; the late Sharon (Lee) Porter,

one son; the late Wesley Porter,

one brother; the late Gale (surviving spouse, Maren) Porter,

He is survived by, his loving spouse; Suzanne (Suzy) Harris Porter,

one daughter; Avena (husband Bobby) Vigue,

two siblings; Virginia (late husband Robert) Biddle and Jim (wife Bev) Porter,

along with numerous extended family and friends.

A cherished husband, father, brother and uncle, Ken was a happy person and kind soul that was loved by all who knew him.

Ken spent his childhood as an Air Force “Brat”, moving with the family from base to base as his father’s duty stations changed. This time started his lifelong love of the different cultures throughout the United States and many other parts of the world. During his teen years in Japan, he studied Martial Arts and added those teachings, both physical and spiritual, to what would form the core of how he looked at the world.

Ken received a Master’s in 1969. At this time, he joined the Army Corp of Engineers, starting a career that would span for over 30 years.

His passion for History, Natural Sciences, and world cultures helped guide him once he retired to focus on sharing the knowledge he had collected with others of all ages. He was instrumental in the 200-year anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Using the many contacts that he had fostered over his career, both in the government and civilian sectors, to propose, plan, and start the group that would follow the trail and celebrate its accomplishments in towns, parks, and historical sites along its route.

Ken later worked with many of these lifelong friends to form a group of Historians that would portray members of the Lewis and Clark expedition to educate the youth of Missouri. Their program was added to the fourth-grade curriculum throughout the state. Together they would travel to elementary schools in Missouri educating students on the Lewis and Clark expedition. Not just by explanation of lecture but by bringing the events to life with full recreations of the clothing of the time as well as all the equipment and even the food and medicines of the day.

Ken loved nature in all of its wonders, from every critter out there to all of the plants and what they all could provide for us if we would just slow down and take our time to see. He volunteered with the Missouri Conservation

Organization.

Ken was always ready to reach out a hand and start up a conversation. He will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his family and all who knew and loved him.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, June 27, 2023 from 5:00p.m. until 8:00p.m. at Chapel Hill Mortuary, 6300 Highway 30, Cedar Hill, Missouri. Funeral Service will be held Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 11:00a.m. at Chapel Hill Mortuary followed by Graveside Service at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Lewis & Clark National Park Association in memory of Kenneth Royce Porter at <https://fortclatsopbookstore.com/product/donation-to-lewis-clark-national-park-association.com>.

Family and friends can review and share stories, photos, and condolences online at [www.stlfuneral.com](http://www.stlfuneral.com). Follow details of this event and others in the community at [www.facebook.com/stlchapelhill](http://www.facebook.com/stlchapelhill).

# Cemetery Details

## Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens

6300 SR 30  
Cedar Hill, MO 63016  
(636) 274-4100

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 27.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Cedar Hill  
6300 Highway 30  
Cedar Hill, MO 63016  
(636) 274-4100  
info@stlfuneral.com  
<https://www.stlfuneral.com>

## Funeral Service

**JUN 28.** 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Cedar Hill  
6300 Highway 30  
Cedar Hill, MO 63016  
(636) 274-4100  
info@stlfuneral.com  
<https://www.stlfuneral.com>

## Graveside Service

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JUN 28. 11:45 AM (CT)

Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens  
6300 SR 30  
Cedar Hill, MO 63016  
(636) 274-4100

# Tribute Wall

JD

“ *I truly miss my brother-in-arms, Reuben! For more than twenty years, Ken and I participated in various Lewis and Clark, Corps of Discovery programs in Missouri and Illinois. We not only represented the Corps for the Missouri Department of Conservation's state-wide effort to bring the history of the Missouri River trip to many fourth grade students all over the state. Ken was truly the expert, after reading the entire set of the University of Nebraska's volumes by Gary Moulton, on the Corps and their famous journey. His recall was legendary! Often, when questioned by students and their parents and teachers....Ken provided a concise and accurate explanation of the role of the Corps, their equipment and the contacts with the Indigenous Peoples then living along the route of the famous expedition. Ken's role explaining and demonstrating the use of many of the unique tools, hunting equipment and the all important "Presents and Trade Goods" used to pay for the needed food, equipment and services provided by these various Tribal Groups, was an incredible asset! Good Hunting Ken and keep a place open for me in that celestial dugout. Jim Duncan (AKA Joe)*

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**Jim Duncan** - October 05, 2023 at 09:31 PM

CD

“ Ken was a good friend for over 30 years, Suzy as well. Ken and Jim spent much of three years doing programs all over the state for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. They portrayed two brothers, Reuban and Joseph Fields, who were on the Corps of Discovery and they kept in character for all their programs. They wowed the public, many teachers and children across the state those three+ years. The four of us went on several trips together and always had a great time. Ken was very generous with his time teaching friends how to bead and all about old time cures for various ailments. Ken's presence and friendship is deeply missed and will be missed forever. May he rest in peace. Carol Duncan

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**Carol Duncan** - October 05, 2023 at 09:08 PM

ES

“ Members of the Three Rivers Chapter of the Missouri Archaeological Society would like to express our condolences to the family of Ken. He was a long time member and good friend to every member. With his extensive knowledge, he on many occasions entertained and educated us with his presentations on a wide variety of subjects. He will truly be missed by all. President, Three River Chapter MAS.

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**Eric Smith** - June 22, 2023 at 09:36 PM

ES

“ Ken was soo much more than a close friend and mentor to me and my late wife, Laura. My life and the world is less with out him. Thank you Ken for just everything!  
The memories of the our times and shared experiences will always be in my heart. My heart goes out to you too Suzy!  
Love, Eric Smith

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**Eric Smith** - June 22, 2023 at 09:12 PM