

August Porter Roberts was devoted husband and father who also contributed to the community and the musical arts in his hometown of Mobile.

Porter graduated from Murphy in 1941. While a student there, he was active in the Outing Club and the Reading Club. After graduating, like so many of his generation, he put his higher education on hold and enlisted in December of 1942, joining the Naval Air Corp. Porter served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross as well as other service related medals.

After the war, he attended the University of Alabama, graduating with a B.A. in Commerce and Business. He also studied voice and used his talent at his Tuscaloosa church and at the Partlow School (a state school for mentally disabled) to leading singing with the residents of on Sunday afternoons.

Upon his graduation, he returned to work for the GM&O Railroad before taking a position at International Paper Company. He retired from IPC in 1988 as Manager of Traffic and Transportation Services. During his career, he served as Loaned Executive to the United Way and as President of Southeast Association of Rail Shippers.

In the civic area, Porter Roberts was an active member of the Mobile Optimists Club and served for many years on the Board of Keep Mobile Beautiful. He also supported Murphy by serving as PTSA President 1978-79.

Porter was also deeply involved in music. He was Minister of Music at 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church for 17 years and his tenure there was honored in the naming of the Music Room. He also served as Interim Director at Central Baptist Church. Outside the faith community, Porter gave his baritone voice to the Mobile Male Chorus, the Mobile College Chorus, and the Mobile Opera Guild Chorus. He sang for numerous weddings and funerals, bringing joy and comfort to many.

To quote from his nomination essay, “He was always proud of the fact that some of his earliest influences on his life were found in the halls of Murphy High School, at the hands of many wonderful mentors and educators.”