

# Charles Danforth Porter. 1921 - 2013

Charles Danforth Porter (Charlie) was born in Exland, Wisconsin, on July 24, 1921. He lived on the family farm and attended local Hayward County Schools until he graduated from Ladysmith High School in 1940. In high school, he was the Wisconsin State Champion, and record holder in the 100 yard dash. He was known as "The slender junior running sensation". After graduation he was off to the big city and the University of Minnesota.

Charles enlisted in the Navy in 1942. He earned the rank of Boatswains Mate 2nd Class. He was the coxswain of a Higgins Boat during the first wave of the invasion of North Africa, landing elements of Patton's Second Corps. After the invasion his ship the U.S.S. Electra was torpedoed by a German U-Boat and he was blown overboard. He survived eighteen hours in the water, knowing that the convoy had orders not to pick up survivors. Luckily, for him the last ship in the convoy disobeyed orders, stopped to pull him from the sea. He was stationed in Oran, Algeria until VE day. Then he was transferred to Bremerton, WA where he prepared to ship out for the war in the Pacific.

After VJ Day, Charlie mustered out of the Navy and returned to Minneapolis, MN. He took a job in the men's department of Dayton's department store, where he met the love of his life Jean Marie Grabowski. They married on, February 14, 1948. Their first child, Charles D. Porter II, was born on, January 23, 1950. In September, 1950, Charlie, Jean and son Charles II, moved to El Segundo. He joined the police force. Charlie and Jean had a daughter, Gardys Jean, on April 10, 1952. Charlie reached the rank of Sergeant. He was best known as the "Juvenile" officer.

As an early member of the El Segundo Little League he helped build both the National and American fields. He also served as an umpire. In 1954 he was named "Young Man of the Year" by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce. He was a scoutmaster and committee member of Troop 773 and Post 267X. He headed the Christmas tree lot for 10 years. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge, PTA and the "Orange Bowl", ESHS Varsity Football Parents Club. His last endeavor was as a staunch supporter of the El Segundo Community Band.

Charlie's easy smile and gracious manner endeared him to many. He loved El Segundo and was proud to be a part of its growth. He is survived by his son Charles and wife Stephanie and daughter Gardys and husband Bruce Kohmann, two grandsons Charles III and Ethan Porter, and two great-grandsons, Charles IV and Thomas Kenneth Porter.