



Douglas Taylor Porter

August 15, 1928 - June 5, 2024

Douglas Taylor Porter

A funeral mass for Douglas Taylor Porter, who passed away on June 5, 2024, will be held on

Saturday, June 15, at 11 a.m. at St. Benedict's Catholic Church, 471 Main Street in Grambling,

LA. Mourners may view the body at the church from 10 a.m. until the funeral service begins. A

repast will follow the service at Roe Hall, adjacent to St. Benedict's church.

Douglas Porter was born on August 15, 1928, in Fayetteville, TN, the son of Waudell

Phillip and Sophia Mae (Taylor) Porter. He earned his bachelor's degree from Xavier University

in New Orleans, and a master's from Indiana University in Bloomington.

A fixture in historically black college athletics, he forged an enduring coaching and

collegiate sports legacy for more than 50 years. After a stint in the military, he returned to his

native Memphis, TN, and began coaching high school football at St.

Augustine, and later at his

alma mater Xavier. In 1961, he accepted his first head coaching job at Mississippi Valley State.

He then went on to Grambling State, where he served as Eddie Robinson's

offensive coordinator

for nine seasons. From 1974-78, he was head coach at Howard University in Washington D.C. In

1979, he was named head coach at Fort Valley State in Georgia, where he also served as athletic

director for 16 years. He led his teams to six Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference titles

and two NCAA playoff appearances. He was also chairman of the NCAA Division II Football

Committee and president of the National Athletic Steering Committee. He returned to Grambling

in 1997, becoming an advisor to former GSU coaches Doug Williams, Melvin Spears and Rod

Broadway. In 2008, he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. When he died at age

95, he was the oldest living Hall of Famer.

“Doug Porter was a remarkable person, crafting an impressive career in coaching and

athletics administration among the HBCU ranks,” said NFF Chairman Archie Manning. “A great

football mind, he was a top-flight recruiter who cared deeply about his players and put them in a

position to succeed. We are deeply grateful for his contributions and saddened to learn of his

passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and the many players and fellow

coaches whose lives he impacted.”

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dr. Wilma Jean Porter. He is survived by his

daughters Daria Porter of Baltimore and Blanche Evette Porter of Minneapolis; his son Douglas

and daughter in-law Sheila of Dallas; and his four grandchildren Daevon, Alexis, Gabrielle and

Douglas, as well as extended family and friends.

A remembrance celebration will be held on Friday, June 14, 2024, from 6-8 p.m., at the

Black & Gold Room in the Favrot Student Union on the GSU campus. Former players, friends,

and family will share their memories of this incredibly accomplished football coach, teacher,

colleague, father and mentor.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation in Douglas Porter's name

to the American Heart Association (<https://www.heart.org/>), the Alzheimer's Association

(<https://www.alz.org/>), or Xavier University of Louisiana

(<https://www.xula.edu/>). Online

condolences may be sent to www.millersfuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Church Service

JUN **15**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Benedict Catholic Church
471 Main Street
Grambline, LA 71245

Tribute Wall

ES

“ Eric D. Washington Sr. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Douglas Taylor Porter.



Eric D. Washington Sr. - June 16, 2024 at 05:54 PM

ES

“ Eric D. Washington Sr. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Douglas Taylor Porter.

Eric D. Washington Sr. - June 16, 2024 at 05:54 PM

HJ

“ Thanks, Coach Porter for being my guidance and father figure at FVSC. You helped me to develop as a player and the person I am today. My condolences go out to the Porter Family. I would like to thank the Porter Family for sharing the GREAT DOUG PORTER with the FVSC TEAMS (1990-1993) QB#4 Blue and gold striped socks



Hubert Hogan Jr - June 14, 2024 at 05:55 PM

HJ

“ Hubert Hogan jr purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Douglas Taylor Porter.



Hubert Hogan jr - June 14, 2024 at 05:00 PM

HJ

“ Hubert Hogan jr planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Douglas Taylor Porter.

Hubert Hogan jr - June 14, 2024 at 05:00 PM

FC

“ Fred Cotton purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum* for the family of Douglas Taylor Porter.



Fred Cotton - June 14, 2024 at 04:10 PM

FC

“ Fred Cotton planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Douglas Taylor Porter.

Fred Cotton - June 14, 2024 at 04:10 PM

DB

“ *My sincere condolences and prayers to the Porter family. Coach Porter touched so many lives during his tenure at The Fort Valley State/FVSU. I'm one of them. My ability to speak in public was because of Coach Porter. Thank you Porter family for sharing your father with all of us. May God continue to strengthen you during this difficult season of your lives. Rest easy Coach 📄*

Diane Veal Brown - June 14, 2024 at 12:47 AM

CH

“ *es ago
Coach Porter, you was one of the best coaches and AD that ever walked the grounds at Fort Valley State College, you are a legendary Coach, you love every athlete, student Facilities and all that knew you. You stood out among those who were there by your side, on and off the field. Coach Porter you are the GOAT, my heart is heavy and eyes are full with tears of joy, because of the love you shown us all at FVSC/FVSU. Rest easy Coach. You are truly missed.*

Tree 22 FVSC Wildkitten



Clestine King Harley - June 13, 2024 at 10:53 PM

AE

“ My condolences to the Porter Family. Coach Porter touched a lot of students lives and I’m grateful of that and for being apart of the FVSU family. I will always remember the fond memories of laughs and life skills that were shared by him. He will always be remembered as “The GOAT” of FVSU! 💙💛🕊️



Audrey Thomas Ellis - June 13, 2024 at 07:28 PM

CH

Coach Porter, you was one of the best coaches and AD that ever walked th grounds at Fort Valley State College, you are a legendary Coach, you love every athlete, student Facilities and all that knew you. You stood out among those who were there by your side, on and off the field. Coach Porter you are the GOAT, my heart is heavy and eyes are full with tears of joy, because of the love you shown us all at FVSC/FVSU. Rest easy Coach. You are truly missed💔🙏🙏🙏

Clestine King Harley - June 13, 2024 at 10:44 PM

QJ

“ Thanks, Coach Porter for being a great person and father figure in my life. You allowed me to develop my skills and helped me to become a better version of myself. Thanks for everything. - Quebec Jacobs

Que Jacobs - June 11, 2024 at 05:08 PM

FB

“ It was a pleasure to have known Coach Porter as a FVSU student/Alumni. His legacy & fond memories will forever be engraved in our hearts. Rest on coach! Wildcat for life! Fran Burns



Fran Burns - June 11, 2024 at 03:01 PM