



Matthew Collin Porter

June 2, 1995 - November 18, 2020

Matthew “Collin” Porter, 25, of Huntersville, NC passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, November 18th, 2020. He was born in Charlotte, NC on June 2nd, 1995 to Gary and Eileen Porter.

Collin was a graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School as well as the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he graduated with a degree in Communications. A lifelong lover of all thing’s sports, Collin was a phenomenal football player, playing at both Charlotte Catholic and UNC – Chapel Hill. With a personality that was larger than life, he was known for brightening every room that he walked into with his laughter and sense of humor.

Collin is survived by his parents Gary and Eileen Porter, his brother Garrett and partner Drew, his brother Sutton and wife Emily, his niece Collins and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, we have decided to have a celebration of Collin’s life at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to:

The Matthew Gfeller Sport-Related Traumatic Brain Injury Research Center

UNC Arts & Sciences Foundation

134 East Franklin Street

Campus Box 6115

Chapel Hill, NC 27599-6115

Comments



“ I think my favorite part about Collin was that you would hear him before you saw him. Collin always managed to talk a volume level 11, enthusiasm level 12, no matter what he was telling you about. He could make the most boring stories leave you busting out laughing. He would also always say your name when he was talking to you (even though he almost always already had your attention), and I can clearly hear his voice saying my name, as well as all of our friends, as if he is about to tell us a story. His laugh was immediately identifiable.

Collin was also compassionate and loyal. I was lucky enough to have Collin as a friend at both Charlotte Catholic and UNC, and he always checked up on how I was doing. At UNC, if he would see me leaving a bar he would always run across the way to make sure that I didn't want someone to walk me home. He would send me texts to catch up, and was always available to get together.

Rest easy sweet Collin.



Maddie Barnaba - December 09, 2020 at 12:59 PM



“ Although countless memories with Collin flood in, it is so hard to describe his meaning to me in words. Looking back through old photos, each time my caption simply said “My best friend!!” Although I would like to think I was special, I believe it is evident from the outpouring of love and memories, that it is easy to see Collin had hundreds of best friends in his life. This is one of the things that makes him so special to all of us. When you were with Collin, he made you feel like the most important person in the world. He had a natural gift to make each person feel heard and important. He endlessly gave to the people surrounding him. He was a genuine friend to each person in our 300+ person class in high school and to every employee of the school- teacher, coach, cafeteria worker, nurse, janitor, office staff- each person mattered to Collin. Whenever I was hanging out with Collin, I knew I was bound to have the best time. His energy was hard to match, and his big grin made anyone smile back. Collin was always so witty, and I loved to egg him on playing devil’s advocate to whatever petty debate we wanted to have, always just for fun. He would go on a passionate rant (and win the argument) because I would just start laughing until my stomach hurt, continuously amazed by his dedication. He gave his all to everything he did, whether it was winning a silly debate, or the bigger things in life, like being a great friend, son, brother, uncle, and human being in this world. His bear hugs will be irreplaceable, I know we all wish we could get one more.



Camille Bauer - December 09, 2020 at 10:35 AM



“ Some of my fondest memories I have are tied to playing football at Charlotte Catholic. It is rare to have such positive experience playing a high school sport. Collin Porter was a big part of that experience having him lined up next to me on the line every down. He was an incredible teammate and even a better person. He was the type of person you wanted on your team. You wanted to give your all every play, because you knew for a fact that he was going to give his all with every snap. Collin was and will continue to be a positive influence on my life. Everyone who met Collin was better for it, he truly knew no stranger. Collin had a larger than life personality that radiated positivity to all that were around. See you later Porter, I'll miss you man.



Ryan Barkley - December 03, 2020 at 01:57 AM



“ It’s no secret that Collin had the ability to light up every room he walked in and could make anyone smile. No one could make me laugh quite like Collin could, but my favorite thing about him was his thoughtfulness. He loved big and if you were lucky enough to know Collin, you knew you had a friend in him. He never failed to make me smile, even when I didn’t want to, and I continue to try to think of what he would’ve said or done to make us all smile.

I am so grateful for the countless memories our friends shared and of course, cheering on 77 during Friday Night Football.

Coll taught me how to love and be loved and I will forever cherish the memories, the love, and the laughs we shared together.

You’ll forever be in my heart, MCP

Mr. & Mrs. Porter, Sutton, Garrett, and family - thank you for sharing Collin’s light with us. We are all better for having him in our lives. All of my prayers and love are with you.



Caila Roberts - December 01, 2020 at 10:45 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Will never forget all the great times we had at soccer games. Colin was a special guy and will also remember the fun we had in Math class. He could always make me laugh. Love to all Linda and Don Dunn

linda dunn - November 24, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ I first met Collin back at Saint Mark Catholic School in 2003. His two older brothers, Sutton and Garrett were classmates of mine and quickly became some of my closest friends. I was lucky enough to go to school from middle school through college with Sutton and Garrett. While I may have spent more time with his brothers, it was easy to see how much Collin was loved by everyone especially his two big brothers. Anytime you would see him he would have a big smile on his face and was such a beacon on light. He was truly an amazing man. Sending love and prayers to the Porter Family.

-Caitlin Roberts

Caitlin Roberts - November 23, 2020 at 08:59 PM



“ Collin and I grew up together as next door neighbors from birth. Every day we carpoled to school and ‘played’ outside after we finished homework. Some of my favorite memories include playing kick the can, capture the flag, 4 square, and around the world. I also remember the love Collin and the Porter’s had for their dog, Charlie Brown. I send my deepest condolences to the Porter family. I am thankful for the nearly 2 decades spend next door to Collin, enjoying his friendship and infectious personality.

Collin will be remembered for putting others first, making sure you get a good laugh, and bringing joy to those around him.

Kristen Conway - November 23, 2020 at 05:36 AM



“ We were extremely fortunate and blessed to have the Porter family as our next door neighbors for almost two decades. You couldn’t ask for a more loving, generous family to call friends. When Collin was a little boy, he had a pair of rubber Barney boots that he must have worn for several years. He even wore them during the hot summer months. More than once, Collin would stop playing long enough to pour the sweat out of his boots! Your infectious smile and big heart are sorely missed, but, never forgotten. Our deepest condolences go out to Gary, Eileen, Sutton and Garrett, as well as the boys loving and devoted Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, extended family and friends. Love, the Conway’s (Marty, David,Emily, Kristen).

David Conway - November 22, 2020 at 10:30 PM



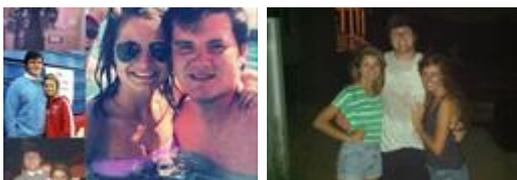
“ I am so lucky to have been Collin's friend, but more importantly to have had Collin as a friend. His personality was infectious and people could not help but be drawn to him. From his smile and laugh and huge bear hugs, Collin was able to light up a room like no one else. One time in college, we were in line to get food and the woman behind the counter noticed Collin and said "Look at all those freckles! Do you know what they are called?" and Collin, with a giant smile on his face said, "Yes, ma'am. My mom says they are angel kisses." The woman told him that was right and couldn't stop grinning. You could tell he had just made her day. I was in awe at his ability to genuinely and earnestly connect with complete strangers and to make them feel like he had been their friend for years. Coll, I know you will make the best angel and I hope you'll spread the freckles around! To the Porters, I send my most heartfelt condolences. Love you always, Coll.



Rachel Brinson - November 22, 2020 at 09:23 PM



“ I was so lucky to have known Collin for most of his life. Collin and I were closest our senior year of highschool, he was my best friend. I'd paint his football number on my face for CCHS football games. Every encounter I had with Collin was with a smile, and if I wasn't smiling, he'd hug me and brought a smile to my face. I'm gonna miss him so much. Collin, thank you for being such a light in my life. Love you.



Jane Cline - November 22, 2020 at 06:19 PM



“ Collin and my daughter Audrey have been best buds since kindergarten at St Pat’s, and I feel so blessed to have known and loved such a wonderful young man. I will always appreciate his friendship and “being there” for Audrey during some tough times in her life. I like to think that God gives us to each other to take care of each other. Thank you Collin for taking care of Audrey! Your big smile and your big bear hugs will always be remembered! Your bright light will shine on through all those that knew you and loved you!

My love, thoughts and prayers are with you Gary, Eileen, Garrett, and Sutton.
Love, Sherri Petrilli

Sherri Petrilli - November 22, 2020 at 04:45 PM



“ Collin always saw me when I felt the most misunderstood and confused. High school was really weird and hard for me, but I could always count on Collin being there when I felt out of place. In high school, thru college, and beyond, we spoke a lot (of course, not often enough) about our many feelings and managing them— how our lives & paths were different but we could deeply understand & empathize with this part of each other. We had so many beautiful conversations on the edges of random parties that I’ll remember for the rest of my life. He was so genuinely kind, nurturing, and funny. I hesitated to share this story, but once, during a drunken night out when he came to visit NC State, he nearly chased this rude guy into the street for mouthing off to me. And he’d do that again, any day, for any body. He made me feel safe and fiercely loved. We are all better for knowing him. I love you, Coll.



Jenna Calderone - November 22, 2020 at 04:20 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Collin



Emily Porter - November 22, 2020 at 03:23 PM



“ I’ve known Collin since 3rd grade. In 4th grade he started calling me EBay for no other than reason than that I hated it, but he always did it with the biggest smile on his face so I could never actually get mad at him, only laugh. I have SO many incredible memories with Collin. One of my favorites was in high school when he made a bet with David and if he lost he would let David put a bowl on his head and give him a literal bowl cut. Collin lost the bet, and as a man of his word, the bowl was put on his head and the scissors came out. David took one large snip and said he couldn’t do it, to which Collin replied “YOU CAN’T STOP NOW!” The group of us laughed until our stomachs hurt. That was the kind of guy Collin was - the biggest and best goofball. Always ready to make the room laugh, and he did it well. I’ll miss you so much, sweet friend. Love, EBay



Erica Batres - November 22, 2020 at 03:05 PM



“ I consider myself lucky to have known Collin since Kindergarten. He was “my best friend through thick and thin” - that’s what we always reminded each other. One of my favorite memories with Collin was receiving the light of Christ award with him in 8th grade. To me, Collin was just that. His pure joy lit up a room and he positively impacted every single person he came in contact with. He could make anyone laugh and had a warm way of making you feel at home. And of course, his hugs were second to none. I also remember Collin insisting on visiting me after getting my wisdom teeth out. He brought me ice cream and just sat and talked with me for hours. He went the second mile for everyone, even those he didn’t know well. Collin, while I will miss you every day, help me shine your light on others daily Thank you for being such a bright light in my life. I will miss you forever and love you always.



Audrey Petrilli - November 22, 2020 at 02:53 PM



“ To the Porter Family, we are heartbroken with this news and sending prayers up for your family. Collin, Garrett and Sutton are all a special part of my boys' memories from St Pat's. Thinking of all of you. Deepest sympathies, Brent, Lynn, Avery, Drew and Owen Grayson

Lynn Grayson - November 22, 2020 at 02:50 PM



“ 21 files added to the album Collin



Megan Sampson - November 22, 2020 at 02:45 PM



“ “Your life was a blessing, Your memory a treasure, You are loved beyond words, and Missed beyond measure”

I am so honored to be Collin's aunt. I had a special nickname for him. He was my Spanky! He touched our lives in so many ways. Collin was the comedian in the family. He was so full of life and always made us laugh. He was a kind gentle giant who loved everyone. My heart is so broken, but the love we have felt from family and friends, has touched my heart in so many ways. Spanky, I will love you now and forever! You will always hold a special place in my heart! Aunt Kathleen

Kathleen Sampson - November 22, 2020 at 02:23 PM



“ Collin was always such a lovable and spunky little boy who grew into such a great young man. We have so many fond memories of him when he was just a tike. He was always determined to keep up with the older boys and was usually successful too! He was mighty but had a heart of gold.

Our family is heartbroken for your loss. The world will miss you Collin!

Love,
The Capets



sally capets - November 22, 2020 at 01:49 PM



“ "Remember me with smiles and laughter, for that's the way I'll remember you all. If you can only remember me with tears, then don't remember me at all."
Laura Ingalls Wilder.

This was something that touched me as a child, and I can't think of anything that would describe Collin's point of view better. He did not like sadness! He was so full of life. He left us with so many funny stories to help ease some of the pain. Although his life was way too short, he will be with us forever. His senior quote from Braveheart was so appropriate – “Every man dies, not every man truly lives.” Knowing him and hearing from everyone who he touched, he truly lived! Love you forever! Aunt Megan

Megan Sampson - November 22, 2020 at 01:30 PM



“ Collin Porter is someone who had so much love to give. I feel lucky to have grown up with him from St Mark grade school to CCHS to his many visits at N.C. State. It was easy to see his love for his family and friends. He always carried a positive energy and would never fail to wrap you in a huge bear hug. We didn't talk much in the most recent years but he reached out a few weeks ago. He told me about his niece, his job, his new house. He told me he was glad I moved back to NC and that we would get a group together. And that was Collin. He didn't care about the time that had passed, he cared about you. Rest In Peace Collin, you are loved and missed by so many. Sending my love and prayers to the Porter Family



Riley Vermillion - November 22, 2020 at 11:43 AM



“ Colin and I were classmates for years, from 3rd grade at St. Mark until graduation at CCHS. He was an incredibly upbeat, positive person, and you always wanted to have class or be on a team with him. I'm lucky I knew him then, and my heart goes out to his family during this incredibly difficult time.

Michael Buttner - November 22, 2020 at 10:02 AM



“ I didn't know Collin like most of the people that have written tributes on this wall, however I do know his parents and extended family well. My heart is so broken for all of them. Please know we are here for you and you are in our thoughts and prayers. As I read the tributes, Collin sounded like he was the type of person everyone would want as their friend. Rest assured, I know that Heaven has gained one big bear hugging angel !, We love you Porter and extended families .

Debbie Henry - November 21, 2020 at 11:07 PM



“ My now-husband, David, was one of the guys that lived with Colin, first at Lux and then at the house on Dawes Street during undergrad UNC. When I first met Colin I immediately loved his booming laugh. Soon I found out how hilarious he was and how he could make everyone around him laugh too. I enjoyed watching football and hearing his commentary, or really any TV program with him because I loved all his sarcastic zingers and witty observations. Colin gave the best hugs- the sort that are big and all-enveloping. Colin was a great conversationalist and was always easy to talk to- whether it be about large, important issues or something as simple as weekend plans. Besides being talented at football, Colin was also talented at ping-pong and Mario kart- both of which he beat me in regularly. Colin loved his family and spoke about them often. He especially loved his niece, Collins.

Although, when I first met him, I assumed he would just be another roommate my boyfriend lived with- Colin became my friend too.

Colin- how wonderful it was to know you. I will miss you dearly. I will love you always.

Sarah Snyder - November 21, 2020 at 07:49 PM



“ The Bereavement Ministry Team and the Parish Community of St. Mark Catholic Church extend our deepest sympathy at this difficult time. Be assured that you and your family are in our prayers.

Bereavement Ministry Team - November 21, 2020 at 06:55 PM



“ I've known Collin since 3rd grade. In 4th grade he started calling me EBay for no other than reason than that I hated it, but he always did it with the biggest smile on his face so I could never actually get mad at him, only laugh. I have SO many incredible memories with Collin. One of my favorites was in high school when he made a bet with David and if he lost he would let David put a bowl on his head and give him a literal bowl cut. Collin lost the bet, and as a man of his word, the bowl was put on his head and the scissors came out. David took one large snip and said he couldn't do it, to which Collin replied "YOU CAN'T STOP NOW!" The group of us laughed until our stomachs hurt. That was the kind of guy Collin was - the biggest and best goofball. Always ready to make the room laugh, and he did it well. I'll miss you so much, sweet friend. Love, EBay (Erica Batres)

Erica Batres - November 21, 2020 at 06:26 PM



“ I have known Collin since he was born. When he was little he seemed to be afraid of me, thanks to his Aunt Kathleen. She always told him funny, but untrue stories about me. I knew he wasn't afraid anymore when I got those big bear hugs from him every time I saw him. He could always make you laugh with his funny comments. He had such a dry wit. Just like his dad. I'm going to miss those hugs, curious eyes and that sweet smile. May you Rest In Peace my sweet Collin. I love you, Aunt Poodie

lisa higginbotham - November 21, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ 11 files added to the album Collin



Emily Porter - November 21, 2020 at 03:39 PM



“ lisa higginbotham is following this tribute.

lisa higginbotham - November 21, 2020 at 02:58 PM



“ I have fond memories of Collin playing with Cameron after school at St. Mark. They were teammates on several teams, including Cougar football. Collin was always encouraging and a leader. Recently, I ran into Collin at St. Mark while he was on a sales call. We had the nicest conversation, I walked away with a smile on my face. We are praying for your family and know that Collin is shining his light in Heaven.

Holly Roberts - November 21, 2020 at 02:22 PM



“ Namesake



Emily Porter - November 21, 2020 at 01:33 PM



“ 23 files added to the album Collin



Emily Porter - November 21, 2020 at 01:28 PM



“ Collin and I met in our Freshman English class with the infamous Ms Shaia as our teacher and he would always do an impersonation of her saying “ god bless” (her catch phrase) that would get a laugh out of everyone. I was fortunate enough to have quite a few classes with him in high school and become good friends. I can vividly remember him sitting in the cafeteria with his football buddies laughing and shouting and always having such a good time. He had the best personality and was the easiest person to talk to. He brought out the best in whoever he was with. Collin and I reconnected within the past few months, and I can't help but be grateful for that and think it was for a reason. Even after losing touch after so long, it felt like no time had passed at all when we spoke. He had a way of making whoever he was speaking to feel special and he genuinely wanted to know about their lives. He spoke about how much he loved his family and his niece Collins. He is looking down on all of us, and I am forever grateful I got to know such a special person. He will be missed so much. Love you Collinguini

Sarah Kalczynski - November 20, 2020 at 09:58 PM



“ Collin drove to Durham a few weeks ago just to take me out to lunch after not seeing each other for years. But that's the thing about Collin- he never knew a stranger. He immediately greeted me with one of his hugs (seriously the best hugs) and it was like we were 16 again. He brought me more joy in those few hours than I'd had in months. Recently he was reaching out to all the nurses and teachers he knew just to let us know he was thinking of us - I can't describe how much that meant to me. His capacity to care so deeply for others was my favorite thing about him. He had the biggest heart and was the most reliable friend. He showed up for his people and was never afraid to let you that he cared. He was the kindest soul and I'm so grateful that I got to know him. Love you so much, Collpo.

Jenn Holder - November 20, 2020 at 12:37 PM



“ Collin was such a bright light in the world, gave the best hugs around and no matter how much time had passed between seeing each other would reach out just to check in. I'll cherish the memories of Collin from the days at St. Mark, the sports events, fighting over who was taller in 5th grade (pretty sure Collin had me beat), dances in high school, and always being a genuinely good person. Love you forever CP.



Riley Strickland - November 20, 2020 at 09:17 AM