

**Celebrating the Life
of**

Irene Russell Blanchard

**Sunrise
September 3, 1941**

**Sunset
July 15, 2021**



Thursday, July 29, 2021

Viewing: 10:00 a.m.

Service: 11:00 a.m.

*From the Heart Church Ministries®
Annex at 5055 Allentown Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746*

Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor

Obituary



Irene Russell Porter Blanchard was born on September 3, 1941 to the late Robert R. Russell and Martha O. Russell. She departed this earthly realm on Thursday, July 15, 2021 to be with her heavenly Father who gives eternal life to all who believe.

Irene, the fifth girl of twelve children, grew up in the Washington, D.C., area. She was educated in the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS); and furthered her education at Federal City College.

In 1955, Irene met the love of her life, Reedy. The inseparable couple was married for more than 62 years.

Irene started her working career with DCPS as a community education organizer in her neighborhood. In that role, she worked closely with members of the Washington Metropolitan Police Department at a satellite station located down the street from her home—assisting young people, especially men who experienced some difficulty with law enforcement. Everyone in the neighborhood would come to Ms. Porter for assistance. And no matter the need Ms. Porter was always there to help. Irene also worked in other capacities at DCPS. She was a clerk-typist for the Special Education Program, a secretary and an executive administrator to several school principals. Moreover, Irene was actively involved in her community for more than 50 years. In fact, she was sworn in as a community advocate for the City of District Heights, Maryland, by former Mayor Jack Sims.

In 1985, Irene joined From the Heart Church Ministries in Suitland, Maryland under the leadership of Founding Pastor, John A. Cherry. On May 20, 1995, she was baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit. Irene was an active member of the Missions Ministry and the Sick and Shut-In Benevolence Ministry. She truly loved serving the people of God and those in need. She also loved sharing the Word of God with others. Over time, her relationship with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ grew and grew. And she adored the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit more than life. Additionally, she was meticulous in her service to God, as well as those in need.

Irene, a godly woman of excellence, was fiercely protective, independent, wise, elegant, courageous, strong, determined, generous, caring and faithful. Furthermore, she gave unselfishly to everyone with whom she came in contact—blessed to be a blessing through love, laughter and encouragement. Similarly, whenever she was given an assignment there was no doubt at all that it would be completed with grace and excellence. For more than 30 years, Irene loved and supported St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Boys Town. Her generous donations helped to further the missions of these nonprofit organizations. However, she will most certainly be remembered for her love of Jesus Christ and family.

In her leisure, Irene loved to travel. She was blessed to have had the opportunity to go to Ghana with her family and members of her church family. She made a point of traveling the world and encouraged her "seven gifts," (also known as her children) to do the same. Irene would travel by any means necessary to be with her children and grandchildren. She traveled within the United States, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Mexico and the United Kingdom. Moreover, the stylish woman was always impeccably dressed when she left home and expected her children to follow suit.

Irene exhibited excellence through her character, conduct and commitment to the faith. Her memory lives on and is cherished by her beloved friend and husband, Reedy; her "seven gifts," Katherine, Robert, Kevin (Elizabeth), Karen, Lavell, Sr. (Alfia), Yolanda, and Andre; precious grandchildren, Candace, Anthony, Corinna, Lavell, Jr., DeVelle, Christina, Ramelo, London, Anne-Marie, Hamilton, Erika, and Darius; great-grandson and joy, Derek; brothers, Joseph, Clarence (Valanthea), and Ernest (Joan); and one sister-in-law, Barbara. Further, Irene will be dearly missed by her many nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of treasured friends. They truly were a blessing to her.

In addition to her cherished parents, Irene was preceded in death by beloved siblings, Flossie, Thomas, Sr., William, Boostie, Patricia, and Walter.

Order of Service

Invocation

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 23
New Testament: John 3:16

Prayer of Comfort

Selection FTH Psalmist

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Obituary (Read Aloud)

Song of Preparation FTH Psalmist

Message of Hope Minister James Johnson, II

Call to Christ

Recessional

Interment
Fort Lincoln Cemetery
3401 Bladensburg Road
Brentwood, Md 20722

A Legacy of Excellence and Love

Irene,

Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labor. My friend, my sweetheart, my companion, my partner, my better half, my wife, my one and only love forever.



Mama,

What a legacy you provided for your seven gifts. You always said that Father-God loved us first and HE would always provide. You fiercely protective your family. The sacrifices you made that we could never repay are endless. The encouragement and wisdom you shared with others touched countless lives as well as ours. Your reliance in faith, your dependence on prayer and your confidence in Father-God promises were boundless. We are forever blessed by your example and commitment to honor the Lord and to give HIM glory in all that HE did through you. You taught us to believe HIS WORD. Your willingness to give and serve was amazing. We rejoice in every good thing which the Lord has given to us HIS children and servants. Thank you, for showing us what love is through JESUS. Mama, your spirit and presence will never be far from our hearts and thoughts. Well, done my good and faithful servant.



Mom

My Beloved Mom. You were my rock and foundation. I was honored that you were my beautiful mom. Mom you was the light of my life. You molded me to have courage, honor and dignity. I honored you with my life, thank you. Mom you were the first person I saw on this earth. I was the last child with you. Thank you, for this precious time, Mom. Alpha Omega, our Lord and Savior.



Go-Go,

You traveled near and far for us. You mean so much to us, more than words could ever say. No one else could take your place for even a single day. From our earliest memories your loved and cared has always been there. You've helped us through the rough times and always shared in our joy in the good times. You have given so much for us, as only you as our Go-Go could. It's a precious gift from God to have a Go-Go like you, because in your special love we can see HIS love shine through.



A Legacy of Excellence and Love

Momma,

What can we say about you, Momma? Momma, you are a strong, compassionate, loving, powerful praying woman of God. You were our teacher, our disciplinarian, our nurse, our comforter, a good listener. You loved music, and most of all you showed us the ways of the Lord. You showed us how to love and give from the heart. Your legacy lives on in us and you will forever be in our hearts. Momma, at the end of your journey called life, you fought the good fight of faith and endured with excellence until the end. We will shed a lot of tears but we rejoice that you are finally home with your Father-God! Thank you, Momma for loving us and teaching us to love one another. You are a true reflection of the love of God, rest in peace Momma, until we meet again.



Grandma

Grandma was at my birth and gave me my first Bible. Grandma taught us The Lord's Prayer. Grandma fought a noble battle to the end and was victorious with God. God prepared a table for my Grandma right beside HIM. The angels are singing Glory to God. My precious Grandma taught me when you walk with Jesus you are walking in HIS Holy presence. I cherished and appreciate my Grandma. Grandma taught us Psalms 23 when we were five years old. Now, Grandma doesn't fear no evil for she is with God. Goodness, mercy and glory has followed Grandma all the days of her life. Amen!! Grandma was a kindred soul. She was blessed and highly favored. Grandma taught me that by giving to other is one of the greatest gifts you can share with the Lord. Grandma was always giving and doing charity to show others what Love is." Grandma is in heaven dancing with the angels and singing to God. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!



Sister Irene,

No matter what Irene was always by my side. When called she was always there for me. Even when I was right or wrong I appreciate that my Sister Irene and Reedy came when I called. Irene was a true big sister.



Go-Go

How, I love my Go-Go? Go-Go was the star and the light of my heart. My great grandmother was my strength and my heart. Go-Go would always read the bible with me and just love me. Go-Go encourage me to do my best and always taught me to believe in God Almighty. I will make my God and my Go-Go, so proud of me. You are loved my beautiful queen. Rest in Jesus open arms. I love my Go-Go with all my soul. Go-Go always told me that, you are my only great grandson. I was a special gift from God to Go-Go



Momma's Corner of Wisdom

A family that prays together stay together
A mother's job is never done
Actions speak louder than words
Always do things decent and in order
Always have faith in God. HE will never fail you
Anything you do for someone else, do it from your heart
Be strong in the Lord
Be thankful for anything anyone does for you
Christmas is everyday
Count your blessing - You are blessed
Do not gossip and be prideful - If you need help, ask for it
Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing
Do to others as you would do for yourself
Do you know what Father-God means about loving one another?
Every knee will bow at the name of Jesus
God brought me from a mighty long way
God is beyond awesome
God is good all the time
God knows every hair on your head
God knows you. I do not know you. I am just the vessel HE used
God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit
Good things happen to those who wait
HE is my Wonderful Counselor, my Savior, my Prince of Peace - HE is my great physician
He is the great I AM
Help someone in your life. You never know who will need to give you a glass of water
Honor your mother and father and your days on this earth will be longer
I am excellent
I am proud of you
I AM who I AM
I believe HIS word that by HIS stripes, I am healed
I love you
I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
I will fear no evil; my God with comfort me
If you do not have anything nice to say about someone do not say nothing at all
It is better to give than receive
Jesus is Lord!
Jesus is your best friend
Jesus, HIS only begotten Son
Let your Light shine
Love is an action word
No matter what happened in life, God is always with me
No one is perfect
No weapon formed against me will prosper
Our little minds cannot even comprehend how good Father God is. Good is not enough to describe HIM
Peace be still
Read your WORD
Repent - We are all sinners
Respect will take you further than your education
The battle is not mine; the battle is the Lord's
There is a balm in Gilead for the healing of your soul
Think of others before yourselves
Travel - See the world
Trust the Lord
Walk by faith and not by sight
We all fall short of God's glory
Weeping may endure for a night, but joy will come in the morning
When I look back over my life, God has brought me and your dad from a mighty long way
You are my gifts from Father-God



Pallbearers

*Chauncey Blanchard
Darryl Blanchard
Renard Blanchard
Devon Clark
Jeffery Herbert
Ramon Herbert*

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

There are not enough words to express God's goodness to our family during our greatest trial and joy. We will always thank God for you. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless you with HIS love, HIS mercy, and HIS grace always. May each of you have the joy your hearts can hold, the smiles a day can bring and the blessings a life can unfold, we did. We are so very grateful for your prayers and acts of love and kindness.

The Blanchard/Porter Family



Services Entrusted to:

*Pope Funeral Home
5538 Marlboro Pike
Forestville, MD 20747*
