The Elsmere Park Board welcomes you to the re-dedication of Rosella French Portesfield Park

Rosella French Portesfield
Mrs. Rosella French Porterfield was born and raised in Kentucky. Through perseverance, she finished school and obtained her graduate and master degrees at a time when few African-Americans were able to accomplish this goal.

Mrs. Porterfield began her teaching career in 1940 at Barnes Temple Church. The church, located on Fox Street in Elsmere, was utilized as an African-American school during the weekdays. Through her great determination, Mrs. Porterfield was able to volunteer to the Board of Education changes in the community afforded her students.

In 1947, Mrs. Porterfield taught and became principal of Williams Heights School, a facility built on Capitol Street in Elsmere to serve the African-American community. During her tenure, Mrs. Porterfield made great strides in integrating the segregated school system. While many communities experienced conflict during the school integration process, Mrs. Porterfield provided the Board of Education with an alternate plan leading to unparalleled peaceful integration. The school is still in use today and serves the community through the Northern Kentucky Head Start Program.

With integration came the realization of Mrs. Porterfield's life-long dream. In the 1950s, Mrs. Porterfield became the first African-American librarian in the Erlanger-Elsmere School District. Mrs. Porterfield remained in this position and inspired countless students to learn and reach for their goals until her retirement in 1980.

The Elsmere Park Board recognizes Mrs. Porterfield's commitment to our community. It is her determination, grace, dignity and inspiration that we recognize today in re-dedicating our community park. It is the desire of the Elsmere Park Board that future generations of children in our community continue to be inspired by Mrs. Porterfield as they enjoy the park located next to the former Williams Heights School building.

July 27, 2002 Re-dedication Program

INVOCATION........................................ Rev. Norman Blankenship

MASTER OF CEREMONY................................ Mr. Curtis Fuller

WELCOME........................................ Mr. David French

CORSAGE PRESENTATION............................. Mrs. Geraldine Fay

SONG.................................................. Ms. Terry Whittaker

PLACQUE UNVEILING................................ Mrs. Nena Collins

SPEAKER.............................................. Mayor Billy Bradford

SONG.................................................. Sister Selena Spriggs

SPEAKERS............................................ Rev. O.B. Ford

.................................................. Rev. Wilford Davis

.................................................. Rev. D. Webb

SONG.................................................. Mr. Rousseau O'Neal

SPEAKERS............................................ Mr. Jim Molly

.................................................. Mrs. Debbie Orkist

.................................................. Mrs. Wanda Hills

.................................................. Mr. Tom Jones

.................................................. Mr. Charlie Hills

SONG.............................................. Brotherhood of Northern Kentucky

HONORED GUEST.................................... Mrs. Rosella French Porterfield

BENEDICTION........................................ Rev. William Hale
Elected Officials

Mayor: Billy Brookfield
Council: Neva Collins, Ralph Fields, Don Koop, Robert Northcutt, Betty Wehner, Beth Wolfich

Park Board

President: Geraldine Fay
Secretary: Thelma Gardner
Treasurer: Linda Jossart
Members: Bobbie Bonner, Marty Livermore, Patrick Sage

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