

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



*Rosella French Porterfield*



*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 female, 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 graceful determination, Mrs. Porterfield was able to elicit from the Board of Education changes in the amenities afforded her students.*

*In 1947, Mrs. Porterfield taught and became principal of Wilkens 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 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 Wilkens 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. Neva 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 Onkst Mrs. Wanda Hills Mr. Tom Jones Mr. Charlie Hills
SONG.....	Brotherhood of Northern Kentucky
HONORED GUEST .....	Mrs. Rosella French Porterfield
BENEDICTION .....	Rev. William Hale

*City of Elsmere*  
*318 Garvey Avenue*  
*Elsmere, Kentucky 41018*

*Elected Officials*

*Mayor..... Billy Bradford*  
*Council..... Neva Collins*  
*Ralph Fields*  
*Don Koop*  
*Robert Northcutt*  
*Betty Wehner*  
*Beth Wulfeck*

*Park Board*

*President..... Geraldine Fay*  
*Secretary..... Thelma Gardner*  
*Treasurer..... Linda Gossett*  
*Members..... Bobbie Bonner*  
*Marty Livermore*  
*Patrick Sage*