



## R. Lenell Portman

May 25, 1918 - July 6, 2017

R. Lenell Portman, a resident of Sulphur was born May 25, 1918 in Mangum, OK to Charles Jacob & Willie (Fowler) Gillaspie. She passed away Thursday July 6, 2017 at Sulphur, OK at the age of 99 years 1 month and 11 days. She was married to George Sweeney Portman at Waukegan, IL on July 11, 1942. He preceded her in death October 27, 1996. Lenell moved to Sulphur at a early age, where she graduated from Sulphur High School. Mrs Portman was a longtime leader in Sulphur civic activities and a staunch advocate of any project that would better her hometown. She received the Governor's Commendation Award for Beautification when she organized the first ever "Junk Parade". She was on the committee for Sulphur's entry for the statewide community Achievement Contest in which Sulphur was awarded first place and received another Governor's Award. Mrs. Portman was chairman of the library committee which was instrumental in the planning and building the Mary Parker Memorial Library. Other civic activities for Lenell included a term on the Sulphur City Council; she was a charter member and later a board member of the Sulphur Main Street and a long-time member and song leader of the Sulphur Kiwanis Club. In 1989, she was awarded the "Keep Oklahoma Beautiful" distinguished service plaque, an annual honor given to the state citizen who pushed community beautification. She was also a board member for a number of years for the Chickasaw National Recreation Area Support Committee. As the first woman elected into membership into the Sulphur Kiwanis Club, the

annual Kiwanis Sophomore of the Year Scholarship is named in her honor. She has been a member of the Tulip Garden Club for over 50 years and has been its president several times. She is a charter member of the Arbuckle Historical Society and served that organization as president for two years. As a 50 year member of the Schubert Music, she set a state record for having served as president 10 times. Mrs. Portman holds interesting honors she earned in her young adult years. She represented Sulphur in the Miss Television Oklahoma in 1940 and was honored at the first public demonstration of TV at the Civic Center in Oklahoma City and at the Oklahoma State Fair. She also was Miss Platt National park in 1940 and represented the park and Sulphur at the National Fort Worth Rodeo and Fat Stock Show. Mrs. Portman worked for the Sulphur Daily News, a forerunner to the Sulphur Times Democrat, in the early 1940's. She had been a member of the Vinita Ave Church of Christ since 1929.

She was preceded in death by her parents, 2 brothers 2 sisters 1 grandson: Nikolas Kelly and her son-in-law: Roger Graham.

Survived by her Daughter: Vicki Graham of Madill, OK

Son: Sam Portman & Jane Schoen of Estes Park, CO

3 Grandchildren: Kristi Wade, of Kingston, OK

Amanda Mahon of Ft. Collins, CO

Natalie Portman of Vail, CO

6 Great Grandchildren: J.T. Wade, Kelly Wade, Corbyn Kelly, Nikolas Kelly, Elia Mahon, and Hadley Mahon.

1 Great Great Grandchild: Parker Wade.

Memorial services will be Monday July 10 at 10:00AM Graveside at Oaklawn Cemetery with Danny Stewart officiating. Arrangements by DeArman Funeral Home of Sulphur

online condolences may be sent to [www.dearmanfuneralhome.com](http://www.dearmanfuneralhome.com)



# Tribute Wall



“ *R. Lenell Portman*

October 05, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *Prayers for all the family. So sorry for your loss.*

**Sue Collins** - July 08, 2017 at 12:53 AM



“ *My deepest sympathies, love and prayers.*

**Cynthia Hines** - July 07, 2017 at 10:34 PM



“ *Nell is so much a part of my past that I don't have just one memory. I have never given a party or shower without thinking of all the years she and my mother gave almost all the showers at Vinita Avenue and she would make sure everything was perfect. Many times she would send me back to press a tablecloth or shine a glass or some other minor detail that made the party special for someone. I will miss my friend.*

**Charlene Gilliam** - July 07, 2017 at 08:18 AM