



## Robert W. Turner

April 14, 2019

Col. (U.S. Army Retired) Robert W. Turner passed away peacefully at home on April 14, 2019. He was born November 19, 1938 in Jacksonville, Florida to Al and Marie Turner, raised in Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, moving to Atlanta for his high school years. He attended North Fulton High School where he met Catherine, his wife of 58 years. She was his cheerleader as he played football and throughout their long life together. He was a distinguished graduate of North Georgia Military College and entered the U. S. Army shortly after graduation. He was a Field Artillery officer serving in Korea, Vietnam, and Iran and various stateside assignments. He moved to Washington in 1980 to work in the Pentagon. His final assignment was with the Secretary of Defense working to secure US technology. He traveled to many countries representing President Reagan's initiatives. He retired in 1989. After retiring he worked with several start-up companies.

Robert was man of many interests—woodworking--building furniture and rooms to improve his many homes; tennis, boating--owning three successive 'BobCat ' boats, water skiing, cruising the Chesapeake; traveling—cruising to exotic ports, and driving to most of the National Parks; and in his younger years, hiking, camping, working with the Boy Scouts, coaching his son's football teams, and building things for his children. Robert was most importantly a family man. He is survived by sons Randall, Charles, and daughter Cristina Ek, daughter-in-law Allison Turner and son-in-law David Ek. He had seven grandchildren—Randall's sons Sterling McCarthy and William

Turner, Chuck's children Cole and Lola Turner, and Cristina's children Dana, Cedar, and Ethan Ek. He was an integral part of the extended family of his wife since Robert and Cathy had been an item beginning in his tenth grade year. He was the "first son" of her father, playing tennis with him often, enjoying football, golf and politics. His large Young family often vacationed together at various beaches and the Lake of the Ozarks and most holidays included Cathy's parents or his parents, the sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law and all the nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends May 10, 2019 from 6-8 p.m. at Miller Funeral Home, 3200 Golansky Blvd., Woodbridge, VA 22192. A memorial service will be held at Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Hwy, Lorton, VA 22079 on May 11, 2019 at 11 a.m. Interment will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Contributions may be made to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, P.O. Box 75832, Topeka, KS 66675.

# Cemetery Details

**Arlington National Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

**MAY 10.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.  
3200 Golansky Blvd.  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
703-878-CARE (2273)  
<https://millerfuneralhome.net/>

### Funeral Service

**MAY 11.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Pohick Church  
9301 Richmond Hwy.  
Lorton, VA 22079

# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert W. Turner*

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January 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert W. Turner.*



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May 10, 2019 at 11:46 AM



“ *Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Robert W. Turner.*



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May 09, 2019 at 03:10 PM

DS

“ Col and Mrs Turner were like 2nd parents to me when growing up down the street from them. Chuck and Chris were great friends of mine and I enjoyed spending time with their family very much. Col Turner was such an inspiration and good influence on me as a young man desiring to become a pilot and military Officer, of which I would become in the years following. He would offer suggestions to me of how to serve my country and learn skills that could lead to success in my life. I remember thinking of Col Turner as a gentle giant...a tall man with strong stature and deep voice who shared a gentle, supportive, respectful, and often times humorous interaction with me. One of the funniest and everlasting memories of him is water skiing on BobCat. I had not skied much before that day and as I hopped in and waited in the water for him to throw me the 2nd ski...he didn't! He chuckled as he told me that I should ski on one ski, slalom, like the rest of them. I remember wanting to impress him, and as he began to pick up the 2nd ski in the boat, I rose to the challenge and told him to just start the boat. He did, and from that day on...I only slalom ski! :) One of the more endearing memories with him was during a visit home from college when I stopped by to see him and Mrs Turner. After updating them on my AFROTC status and of earning a Pilot slot, he seemed so proud and asked me to sit with him to chat more while sipping scotch. I didn't particularly care for the taste of scotch, but knowing how he always cared for me, that was when I knew I had "made it" in his eyes...so I drank it gladly. Like many of us do when life takes us on many roads in our lives and across this globe, I did not get a chance to stay in touch with him and Mrs Turner as I would have liked, and for that I am saddened. But at the same time, I am filled with joy remembering him and join with you in the celebration of his life. One day when I have passed, I look forward to sitting with him again, chatting about our military careers, our families, and some more of our memories from my childhood...all while sipping scotch.

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Darryl Smith - May 09, 2019 at 11:45 AM

DS

“ Darryl & Melanie Smith purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Robert W. Turner.



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**Darryl & Melanie Smith** - May 09, 2019 at 11:07 AM



“ I will miss you Granddad, it's not the same without you here. I have so many fond memories of visiting over the summer as a kid: you driving us all over the neighborhood in your tractor, or attempting to teach us to play pool in the basement (even if I was a stubborn student with my own set of rules). I remember your big laugh and witty sense of humor- I still laugh remembering the time you tricked Cedar into believing she shortened her life every time she ate black olives. I'll miss your stories, and family dinners won't be the same without you at the head of the table. I miss having you here but I have a lifetime of happy memories - thank you for being an important part of my life.

Love always,  
Dana

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**Dana Ek** - May 06, 2019 at 07:04 PM

BW

“ Bill Westbrook purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Robert W. Turner.



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**Bill Westbrook** - May 03, 2019 at 12:23 AM

JP

“ May 1, 2019

*Robert, my good friend from high school in Atlanta was a man among men -- as kind and gentle off the field as he was a ferocious competitor on it.*

*We thoroughly enjoyed having the Turners come to dinner at our home in Fairfax in the early 80s and go out with us and our high school classmate Roger Beebe a couple of years later. I loved discussing politics with Robert because though he disagreed with me (totally) it was in a humorous way that was fun and never offensive.*

*We have lost a great one. Our heft-felt condolences to Cathy and the family.*

~

*Jim and Sandy Phillips,  
North Carolina*

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**Jim Phillips** - May 01, 2019 at 02:53 PM

EV

“ Even though I am definitely old enough to refer to him as Robert, I will always call him Mr. Turner because I knew him before I considered myself an adult. Cris and I were college roommates all four years and I spent a lot of weekends at the Turner house. Mr. Turner was always there to welcome me with that memorable grin of his and incredible wit. I have so many memories of eating with the family and the lively political debates when Cris’s brothers were home. I treasure that carefree time of my life and am so honored to have known such a good man. Mrs. Turner, you two were second parents to me during those years and I thank you for that. I am so sorry he is gone and please know my thoughts are with you and the family.

Love,  
Beth Vinoskey

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**Elizabeth Vinoskey** - April 25, 2019 at 07:25 PM

WW

“ Robert was my friend and a true American patriot. We attended North Georgia College together in Dahlonega, GA. We spent four years as cadets in F Company. We both served as Cadet Squad Leaders and Platoon Sergeants our Sophomore and Junior years. During our Senior year we were roommates. Robert was the F Company Commander and I was the Executive Officer.

*During our four years at NGC, we spent a lot of time together. When we had time off campus, we would go to a movie, out to eat, and one time we went fishing. I don't remember catching any fish, but we had a good time.*

*Robert always had a positive attitude, was upbeat, and willing to help others. I am sure he carried these traits with him throughout his military career and beyond.*

*After graduation we traveled different roads. The last time I saw Robert was at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was there to attend the Artillery Officer Advanced Course and I was on my way to Greece. Our paths never crossed again. We did from time to time keep in touch through Christmas cards and family updates.*

*I will never forget Robert. Our time together is etched in my memory for all time. Robert is not lost. I know where he is. He is in the arms of God and we will meet again on the other side.*

*Bill Westbrook*

*P.S. Cathy,*

*Your wedding was the first and last time I ever wore a tuxedo.*

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William R. "Bill" Westbrook - April 25, 2019 at 05:10 PM

JW

“ I am so sorry for your loss of husband, father, grandfather, friend, mentor. One memory I have of Robert Turner was Bob as a Southern gentleman, graciously welcoming Cathy's teaching cohorts to the many WSHS gatherings we had at their home and then leaving us to our laughter and conversations, quietly disappearing to work on his own projects. Cathy, you have been his loving wife, by his side for a long time, and I know that you will miss him so much. My heart-felt condolences to you and all the family.

*Jeanne Warner*

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**Jeanne Warner** - April 25, 2019 at 09:11 AM