



David Allen Turner, Jr., PhD.

September 7, 1955 - September 14, 2020

David Allen Turner, Jr., PhD., age 65, died September, 14, 2020 with his loving family by his side at his home in Ypsilanti, Michigan. David was a United States Air Force (USAF 1978 - 1983) veteran and an accomplished artist, musician, and scientist.

David was born in Augusta, GA on September 7, 1955, and was the third child of Dr. David Allen and Clara Faye (Bolton) Turner. His father was a flight surgeon in the USAF, and the family lived in Germany and San Antonio, TX before settling in Albany, GA. David graduated from Westover High School in Albany in 1973, and attended the University of Georgia and Southern Methodist University in Dallas before enlisting in the USAF in 1978. He graduated from the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA in 1979 after completing a 47-week Russian language course, and served as an airborne linguist assigned to the 6990th Electronic Security Group at Kadena Air Base, Japan for several years.

David earned his BS in 1985 from Georgia Southwestern College before moving to Detroit to earn his MS (1987) and Ph.D. (1994) in Biological Sciences from Wayne State University where he met his wife, Kamilah (Wakim) Turner. David and Kamilah then moved to Ypsilanti, MI, where David completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, MI. Together they had two sons, Marley Allen (1994) and Dylan Milad

(1997), and they collaborated on an art jewelry business for many years. After a 3-year stint as a pharmaceutical sales representative, David spent two years as a research assistant professor in the Neuroscience department at the Medical College of Ohio where he conducted biomedical research and contributed to the training of graduate and medical students. In 2004, David accepted a civilian position with the USAF Drug Testing Laboratory in San Antonio, TX and worked as a forensic toxicologist and expert witness until retiring in 2017.

David had an avid interest in music, and played harmonica with innumerable bands from his youth until his last days. He was a founding member of the Luddites of Detroit, and he always seemed to have a harmonica in his pocket and a knack for joining any given band on stage for a song or two.

David is survived by his wife Kamilah of 30 years, his sons, Marley and Dylan, Marley's fiancée, Franchesca Leguen and son Thasiyah. Also surviving are his mother, Faye Turner, sisters and their spouses Nancy and Scott Brown, and Susan and Richard Winston, and mother and brother in law Carol Sessions and Gordon Wakim. David is also survived by his nieces and nephew, Annalee Wilkin, Clara Winston, Margaret Brown, and Becky and Dan Drake, and great nephews Mitchell Glausier, Logan Elder and Scott Drake. David was preceded in death by his father Dr. David Allen Turner, Sr., and his father in law, Milad Nimr Wakim. David also leaves behind numerous brothers by other mothers; they know who they are.

David's gregarious nature and extensive travels enabled him to touch and greatly enrich the lives of many people. He was a genuinely funny and creative and intelligent person that would instantly light up a room, and he will be sorely missed by all who were fortunate to meet and know him both personally and professionally.

Those who would like to send memorials in David's honor may contribute to a homeless shelter in their community.

A celebration of David's life will be held on a date yet to be determined.

Please email imagine@gvtc.com to be informed as plans develop.

Tribute Wall



“ *David Allen Turner, Jr., PhD.*

May 22, 2023 at 10:29 AM



“ *David Allen Turner, Jr., PhD.*

May 22, 2023 at 01:29 AM



“ *David Allen Turner, Jr., PhD.*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *Terribly sad to hear belatedly about the death of an old friend. We were both working on our PhD's at Wayne State and so I knew Dave and his wonderful wife Kamilah for about 5 years. He and I were the only "southerners" at Wayne State in the Bio graduate school so shared a special sort of bond. A really good guy who is missed by all his, "brothers by other mothers", and everyone else fortunate enough to get to know this special person.*

Darrel Heber Pittman, PhD - October 30, 2021 at 05:49 PM



“ *My condolences Nancy. I am so sorry to hear this. My prayers are with all the family. Love you!* 🙏🕊️



W Scott Segler - September 21, 2020 at 06:10 PM

NR

“ *Such a special family to me!*
Nancy Reimer

Nancy Reimer - September 18, 2020 at 10:27 PM

HC

“ *So sad to hear this news. Many memories of David and his family...the pool, etc. Saw him last at our 40th HS reunion and he was, as ever, charming, hilarious, brilliant, kind and, it was as though we'd seen each other a week earlier rather than 30 years. Godspeed David and deepest sympathy to Mrs. Turner, Nancy and Susan.*
Howard Christian

Howard Christian - September 18, 2020 at 06:20 PM

CS

“ *Chuck and April Scitney purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of David Allen Turner, Jr., PhD..*



Chuck and April Scitney - September 18, 2020 at 01:32 PM

DR

“ *Susan & Nancy, Such fond memories of David growing up. He was always such a happy person and I love his smile. Peace be with you.* *DeLora Staines Rogers*

DeLora Staines Rogers - September 18, 2020 at 12:10 PM

RH

“ *Reg Hartin lit a candle in memory of David Allen Turner, Jr., PhD.*



Reg Hartin - September 18, 2020 at 11:26 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Allen Turner, Jr., PhD..*



September 18, 2020 at 08:10 AM

JT

“ *Nancy, Susan and family, I am so sorry to hear of David's passing. Praying that God will give you that peace that surpasses anything we can understand. Julie Taylor*

Julie Taylor - September 18, 2020 at 12:06 AM

SA

“ *My deepest condolences you will be missed I know you were loved by your family and friends. Thank you for helping the Heidi Search Center and sharing your God given talents to bless those around you. Forever rest in God's Peace* 🍷💜🙏❤️🌈

Sylvia Morfin Araiza - September 17, 2020 at 11:32 PM

GD

“ David was such a great friend . I remember great times with him in so many places and he was always had a great attitude toward life. My thoughts are with him and his family.

George Dobson

george dobson - September 17, 2020 at 09:28 PM

JM

“ I will always remember running around Fairfield with David, Bill Allen and John George. We were always the best of friends. The nights in the 1960s when I spent the night with David we would always watch wild wild West on TV. In the daytime, we would play bumper pool and swim in the pool in the backyard. I sure loved that pool. Sure were great memories. He will be greatly missed. I will never forget him. So sorry to hear of his passing. Jim Macomber

Jim Macomber - September 17, 2020 at 08:45 PM

GS

“ Dear Susan and Nancy, I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of David. I have very fond memories of him from when we were in high school. Sending you and your family love and prayers. Gena Kay Shealy

Gena Kay Shealy - September 17, 2020 at 08:11 PM

SD

“ Dear Faye, Susan and Nancy, I am so sorry to hear about David. I have a lot of great memories of fun times visiting your home. David was the little brother that you wanted to be around. He was fun, smart, and always smiling. I know he will be missed by many. Remember the great times. He will live in your hearts forever. Sending love and hugs, Sandy Evans Deiter

Sandy Deiter - September 17, 2020 at 05:53 PM

JS

“ Dear Nancy, Susan & Faye,

So very sad to hear about David's passing. He was certainly a good friend and fun soul. I have many fond memories at the Turner's pool with ya'll.

Scott Stephenson

J. Scott Stephenson - September 17, 2020 at 04:29 PM



“ Nancy and Susan so sorry to hear about David. He had a lot of your daddy in him! Tim

Tim Trulock - September 17, 2020 at 04:21 PM

CW

“ Thinking of David makes me smile, good high school friend to many. Condolences to the family.

Cathy Leavy Whittington - September 17, 2020 at 04:03 PM

SS

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Davids passing. So many memories of Fairfield come to mind. He had the most glorious smile. My sympathy to the family.

Susan Dowdell Smith - September 17, 2020 at 03:40 PM

MV

“ My condolences to the family. I will never forget the great times we all had in middle school and high school here in Albany. David was always a true friend and a pleasure to be around. I am very sad to hear of his passing.

Mike Veasey

Mike Veasey - September 17, 2020 at 03:03 PM

JU

David was my alter ego kindred spirit. He dared to go where the rest of us feared. While I was not around him much in high school the times we shared will always be a great memory. May his indomitable grin live in infamy. God rest... Jim Ussery

jim ussery - September 17, 2020 at 07:33 PM

SB

Nancy, I'm so sorry for your family's loss, praying for God's peace.

Shirley Benford - September 17, 2020 at 11:06 PM

DA

David was a kind and loving human being....rest in peace David

Dan Armstrong - September 18, 2020 at 02:48 PM

KA

Very sorry to learn of Daves' passing. Dave (and Kami, Marley & Dylan) were great neighbors in Depot Town. Dave was always willing to help with a smile. Loved his music too at many neighborhood gatherings.

Charlie & Kyle Achatz

Kyle Achatz - September 18, 2020 at 08:58 PM

SP

I am so sad-David was one of the best most fun guys I have ever met. Memories of David, Bob McGee-seem like yesterday. I was cleaning out an old jewelry box just the other day & found a clay bracelet given to me by David, made by him & his wife. So sorry for your loss, Faye Nancy & Susan ❤️

Susan Powell - September 21, 2020 at 04:35 AM