



## Melvin Eugene Turner

June 21, 1948 - February 3, 2021

Melvin Eugene Turner, age 72, of LaSalle, lost his battle with cancer and passed away Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at Angela Hospice, Livonia.

Melvin was born June 21, 1948 in Monroe, he was the son of Dewey Ethridge and Mildred Juanita (Bowman) Turner.

He was a graduate of Mason High School (1966) and attended Eastern Michigan University on a full scholarship, before serving his country in the U.S. Air Force from September 1968 until his honorable discharge in June 1980.

While at Mason, Melvin was a star pitcher for the Eagles and still holds the state record for strikeouts in a game.

Following his military service, Melvin spent considerable time in the sports entertainment field, including having a hit sports-talk radio show in Philadelphia and many annual publications regarding college and pro football. Melvin had an aptitude for math and greatly enjoyed the analytics of sports gaming.

Later in life, Melvin pivoted from the sports world to religion and dedicated his remaining days to helping others. He was a member of LaSalle Presbyterian Church and was a dedicated volunteer especially with the Damascus House and other church-related organizations.

He is survived by his two sons, Paul (Katie) Turner of Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Ryan (Heather) Turner of Tampa, Florida; and four grandchildren, Ashley, Sydney, Emily and Chase.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

In accordance with Melvin's wishes cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Interment will be at Roselawn Memorial Park, LaSalle. Bacarella Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

Online condolences and special memories may be shared with the family by visiting the obituary page at <http://www.bacarellafuneralhome.com>

# Comments

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“ My name is Jason. I met Mel in 1999 while volunteering with him at the Damascus House. Our friendship began and I enjoyed going to church and bible studies with him throughout the years. We had many discussions in bible study and prayer that I will greatly miss. I was also with him many times as he prayed with others and helped them as he could. There were numerous others that I know he helped with their financial needs and their spiritual nourishment throughout the years. I witnessed Mel give away countless Bibles and car rides to others and he even gave away two cars to others who desperately needed it. He seemed to have a special way of feeling the pain of others and wanting to help-a rare type of empathy that is seldom seen but as he would tell you, if given by God. I specifically remember Mel stating “to die is gain, but to live is Christ” and I believe his favorite verse was Proverbs 3:5,6 “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths.” Mel shared this verse with me when he first met me at the age of 19 years old and I have found it to be a strengthening verse in my life. The last time that I spoke with Mel was mid-last year. I did not know he was sick or I would have visited him. He was a wise man and a loyal friend. I will forever be great full for his mentorship and friendship. God bless.

**Jason Berry** - February 20 at 09:32 AM

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“ Melvin was a star in our class of '66! Truly fun and smart; "fun" was the best part of him when we were avoiding adulthood. He will always be in our memories as a good friend and I am sorry that he has left the world so soon. My sincere wishes for peace to his family and good friends, and joy in his memories.

Chris Chickeral

**Chris Chickeral** - February 11 at 04:24 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Sharon Turner-Hoeft** - February 10 at 07:02 PM



“ For all the Blessings we shared, I give thanks. Especially our amazing sons, Paul and Ryan. You were loved.

**Sharon Turner-Hoeft** - February 10 at 07:05 PM



“ What a truly beautiful picture of the three of you. I am so sorry for the loss of Mel. I hate to think how he must've suffered. I love you all. Shelly

**michelle covey** - February 11 at 07:08 PM



“ I heard so much of you, Paul, Ryan, and family throughout the years. Mel was especially proud of his sons and their families. I hope to be apart of any future celebration of his life. He was a genuinely kind man.

**Jason Berry** - February 20 at 10:15 AM

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“ Mel was truly one of a kind!! He was a great friend, fellow student, great athlete and known for his great sense of humor.

During our senior year he he was part of a double date for Senior Prom and it is certainly a night I will never forget! It was one of my fondest memories of high school! I was sorry to hear he had to battle cancer. To his family I offer my condolences for their loss. they should take comfort in knowing he is no longer in pain.

Mel, you will never be forgotten. Love ya big guy!!!

**Barbara Fisher** - February 10 at 06:40 PM

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“ Melvin was a great friend during our four years of High School. Many fond memories of playing baseball and basketball together and enjoying good times. Melvin never studied and always got straight A's. Spent many nights at Melvins house with his Mom and Dad. My prayers are with his family.

**ray deslover** - February 10 at 01:55 PM



“ Although I have not seen Mel in a while I will always remember the great times we enjoyed in high school. He was a good friend and I will miss him .My sympathy to his family.

**Carol (Graver) Discher** - February 10 at 03:12 PM



“ Mel was a great friend although I have not seen him in a bit I have great memories of the times we spent together. He was gifted with his intelligence. I will miss Mel. I will never forget our good times together. I sympathy to his family.

**Carol (Graver) Discher** - February 10 at 03:18 PM