



Henry Lee Turner II

April 28, 1925 - November 2, 2025

Henry Lee Turner II passed away on November 2nd at McClellan Veteran's Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas. He was born on April 28, 1925. He lived fully every day of his 100 years.

Born and raised in Warren, Arkansas, he worked on the Alaskan Highway after graduating from high school. In 1943, he joined the Navy and was a tail gunner in a dive bomber squadron attached to the USS Midway. After the war, he attended the College of the Ozarks, then the Arkansas State Teachers College (now UCA), and then completed his M.Ed. at the University of Arkansas.

He coached basketball and football for several teams before becoming the high school principal at Des Arc and then the principal of Northside Elementary in Morrilton, Arkansas, retiring after 17 years at Morrilton.

He loved nature and traveling. He visited every state in the U.S. and most of the National Parks. After retiring, he became a world traveler – always on the cheap – a loaf of bread, a jar of peanut butter, and a bottle of water was the fuel for many jaunts. With his wife Beth, he visited numerous countries on five continents.

He loved music, especially live, and dancing and was as excited about a school band's recital as a Ray Charles or Count Basie concert. His love of sports is legendary. He was a fan not only of the Razorbacks, but of all the colleges of Arkansas. Winning or losing didn't matter as much to him as just

being at the game. His devotion to high school athletics was such that in 2016, the Arkansas Basketball Coaches Association named him Arkansas's Number 1 Basketball Fan. Morrilton honored him many times.

Above all, he loved people – seeing old friends and meeting new ones. If he could talk long enough to you, he would find some mutual friend or acquaintance. One never knew when or where Henry Turner would turn up, but it would be a safe bet that he'd be the last to leave any event, often after the lights were turned off.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Cone and Bernice Belin Turner; his brother Cone; his sisters Jane, Martha, and Annette; his nephew Marty Womble; and many aunts, uncles, in-laws, and friends that he loved as family. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years Julia Beth Scott Turner; his daughter Jane; sons Paul, Hank, and Cone; daughters-in-law Michele Turner and Stephanie Turner; grandchildren Hunter Lively, Sierra Turner, and Dakota Turner; nephews Jim Womble, Dallas Miles, and Jerry McClain; nieces Melissa Miles and Lucinda Miles; and many grand-nieces, grand-nephews, in-laws, and beloved friends.

He truly kept the commandment to love thy neighbor as thyself and he never met a stranger.

There will be a visitation at 1:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Morrilton on Tuesday, November 11, with the funeral service to follow at 2:00 p.m. There will be a small graveside service in Oakland Cemetery in Warren on Wednesday, November 12, at 12:00 p.m. Donations may be made to the Morrilton High School Athletic Department or Music Department. Arrangements are by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton.

Cemetery Details

Oakland Cemetery

Warren, AR

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 11. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
201 S. Chestnut St.
Morrilton, AR 72110

Funeral Service

NOV 11. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
201 S. Chestnut St.
Morrilton, AR 72110

Graveside Service

NOV 12. 12:00 PM.

Oakland Cemetery
Warren, AR

Tribute Wall

SB

“ *A life well lived.*

Susan Brewer - April 30 at 08:31 PM

LT

“ *I wish I would have had a chance to see him one more time. He always made me feel special. He remembered me even when I was older..... He was an angel on Earth whom I'm so happy to have had make footprints on my heart that will never disappear. When I think of him and his smile it always makes me smile. ❤️*

Lesa Baker Thompson - November 11, 2025 at 06:38 PM

BH

“ *Hello Turner family,
My husband and I were in Switzerland on top of a snowy mountain when I said “Hi” to a man who responded with a “Hi”. We each recognized a not-European accent. He asked where I was from. When I responded “Arkansas” he took off the hood of his winter coat to reveal a Razorback ball cap! It was your Henry. There may have been 8-10 people on that mountain and what a pleasure it was to meet him. Some correspondence followed for a while and I learned he was well liked and respected. I think this meeting was in 1991. My husband and I offer our condolences to you all,
Barbara Hawes
Little Rock*

Barbara Hawes - November 11, 2025 at 09:52 AM

PS

I was a student in Des Arc during Mr Turners time as principal. He must have paddled me 15-20 times. Gave me 200 minutes of lunch detention, and suspended me for 3 days among other things. Looking back 55 years, I must say I deserved them all! I was an undisciplined youth and he was strict. Fast forward to about 15 or so years and I look up at a ballgame and there's Mr Turner. We greeted one another and spoke of former days. He remembered and laughed about our past. Said he knew I was really a good boy. I am now 70 yrs old and am a retired farmer/pastor. He was truly a fine man.

Pat Skarda - November 11, 2025 at 08:35 PM

MF

*Margaret Barlow Farrish.
Mr. Turner always treated us with the utmost respect. It is amazing to live to be 100 years old. My sympathy to his family and friends.*

Margaret Barlow Farrish - November 13, 2025 at 06:46 PM

JG

“ I remember Mr Turner as my principal at Des Arc High. I ran into him several years ago at a funeral and he still remembered me. So sorry for your loss. He was a good man! Jim Garth

Jim Garth - November 10, 2025 at 02:56 PM

DG

“ What an awesome obituary and life he lived!!! Class of “78” Des Arc High School. My condolences to his family.

Debbie Holloway Gunter - November 09, 2025 at 08:58 PM

JT

“ Mr Turner was my principal when I attended Northside Elementary and he always remembered me whenever he would see me after many years. His daughter Jane was a classmate of mine and whenever he would see me he would give me updates on where Jane was. Mr Henry Turner was indeed a Legend

Judy Toney-Jackson - November 08, 2025 at 12:55 PM

GT

“ It is true that Henry Turner knew most of Faulkner County and maybe Arkansas. Was at basketball game and looked up and there he was at UCA.



Gina Thomas - November 08, 2025 at 12:08 PM

RS

“ Regina S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Lee Turner II.

Regina S. - November 08, 2025 at 12:00 PM

GG

“ I met Mr. Turner at UCA athletic events. I always enjoyed visiting with him. Condolences to his family.

Gale Garrison - November 07, 2025 at 04:10 PM



“ I first met Mr. Turner in 1979 when I went to work teaching second grade at Northside Elementary. He was the kindest man and I truly respected him. One morning early, our little poodle was struck by a car. I called him crying and told him I'd get to school as soon as I could. His reply was, “ You take care of your sweet pet and I will go take care of your children.” That meant the world to me! He had a heart of gold!

We left Morrilton and I didn't reconnect with him for over 10 years. My husband was a basketball coach, so, of course it was at a ballgame. We visited and caught up. His genuine smile and care and true concern and joy of reconnecting was Amazing! What a gift he had!

From the 1990's to about two years ago, I would either visit with him at ballgames around the state or at the Morrilton gymnasium. His delight just made your day!

Probably the last time I saw he and Beth was at The Farmer's Market in downtown Conway. Again, we had a delightful visit! His memory Always amazed me, as well.

Dennis and I are praying for you Beth and for your precious family during this difficult time. I'm sure that Mr. Turner was smiling and already visiting with everyone when he walked through those pearly gates in Heaven.

Sincerely,
Carol and Dennis Copeland

Carol Copeland - November 07, 2025 at 05:32 AM

RG

“ I'm sorry to hear of Henry's passing. To say he was "one of the good guys" is an understatement. He was always a joy to be around. I know he will be missed by many. I'm praying for you, Julia Beth, and the entire family. May you sense God's love and peace surrounding you. Rest in peace and rise in glory, saint in light!

*Rev. Dr. Tony Griffin
Russellville, AR*

Rev. Dr. Tony Griffin - November 06, 2025 at 11:39 AM

WZ

“ I am sorry to the family for your loss. Mr Turner was a great godly man and a sports and knowledgeable sports fanatic...May he RIP....



Wayne Zachary - November 05, 2025 at 01:43 PM

PJ

“ Beth and family, sending you my sincere sympathy. Henry was one of a kind. Our time in Des Arc with all of you was something special and memorable for me. I remember that he would invite me and Chuck for supper without running it by you first. But you always managed to have a lovely meal even though you had your young children running around. I would run into Henry at ballgames and we always had nice visits. He deserved his 100 years because he would always spread joy wherever he went.

Phyllis Puyear Jones

Phyllis Puyear Jones - November 05, 2025 at 09:39 AM

MS

“ Beth and family so sorry to read of Henry passing. I know God will comfort you and your families during this time.

Mary c Spencer - November 05, 2025 at 09:08 AM

MA

“ Manuel A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Lee Turner II.

Manuel A. - November 05, 2025 at 01:01 AM

KK

“ Karen K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Lee Turner II.

Karen K. - November 04, 2025 at 10:19 PM

TD

“ A former student of Northside Elementary, Mr. Turner was my principal. He was truly one of a kind. We had a great conversation about a year ago. I called him and we discussed many topics. He will truly be missed. Mrs. Turner, Paul and the whole family, you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Tyronne Davis - November 04, 2025 at 09:40 PM

MD

“ Michael & Patricia Dry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Henry Lee Turner II.

Michael & Patricia Dry - November 04, 2025 at 04:46 PM



“ *Springtime Wishes was purchased for the family of Henry Lee Turner II.*



November 04, 2025 at 04:46 PM



“ *Mrs. Turner, (Beth), I am truly sorry for your loss. Words are not enough to describe Mr Turner. He was an exceptional human being. I never had any opportunities to spend time with him, because I went to a different elementary school. But from what I've known, being from a small community, he touched hundreds of lives. May you have peace during this grieving period. I know without a doubt he is in heaven with our Father! God bless you and your family.*
Love, Stacy Ring

Stacy Ring - November 04, 2025 at 02:38 PM



“ *Mr. Turner was my principal when I taught at Northside. He was always there with a kind word and a helpful idea to make my day, week, and year much better. I have never forgotten all the help or lessons he taught me and still use them to this day in working with "my kids". I am forever in his debt for helping me become the kind of teacher I wanted to be. RIP Mr. Turner, you will be missed. But never forgotten. Beth Fullerton*

Beth Fullerton - November 04, 2025 at 11:00 AM



What's more appropriate a Veteran be buried on Veterans day i think i remember Mr Henry at DesArc high school

Dennis Mayher - November 09, 2025 at 11:05 PM

NS

I never had Mr. Turner as a principal, but all of my siblings did. Most of my interactions came from talking with him at Morrilton High School games. He was always there. He always greeted me by name with a friendly smile and asked how we were all doing. To say that he was loved and will be missed is an understatement. I'm fortunate to have known such a wonderful spirit.

Nathan Smith - November 14, 2025 at 05:46 AM