



# Charles Eugene Turner

JUL 18, 1930 - NOV 19, 2024



Scan to Visit



MEMORIAL PARK  
Funeral Home & Cemetery

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6



# Charles Eugene Turner

JUL 18, 1930 - NOV 19, 2024

**C**harles Eugene Turner was born 18 July 1930 to Margaret Whitner Turner in Corinth MS. Some of his fondest early memories came from walking through town with his mother, learning to appreciate its people and their stories. Little Charlie would someday become quite the people-person, with a gift for finding enchantment in every face and name. He also developed an early appreciation for a quiet sanctuary: “I always, by the grace of God, loved to go into the church, even when I was small,” he said. “I couldn't tell you why.”

The family would move from Corinth, to Memphis, to northern Alabama, and then to Chattanooga. It was there that Charles met Jo Ann Kachadurian. They shared a textbook during Latin class one day, and the rest of his life was entwined with hers. They married on 29 July 1950, just outside his sister's bathroom window - a simple “garden wedding,” they would say with a laugh.

A year later, at 21 years old, Charles joined the Navy. This took him and Jo Ann to Hawaii, a place he would love like no other. He remembered the waters as “the bluest blue you could imagine, what heaven must be like.” They welcomed baby Alison Beth during their time there, soon followed by a transfer to Washington DC and the arrival of baby Laurie Faith. Then in 1955, Charlie and Jo Ann moved their family to a small house in Memphis (the site of many a Sunday lunch to come), and the Navy man could turn his attentions to writing.

As with any artist's path, Charlie's was varied and winding, but it was certainly one of faith. His mother and grandpap had taught him to love the Lord, and his works were permeated by his particular call to ministry. Short stories and novels, plays, articles for magazines, even a children's book - Charlie spent many years crafting narratives, fleshing out spiritual quandaries in southern gothic prose. He chose words in a way that conveyed both candor and reverence, aiming above all to “deepen the mystery of God and not attempt to shallow it.”



## Obituary

**Charles Eugene Turner**

JUL 18, 1930 - NOV 19, 2024

---

Lover of words that he was, Charlie talked even more than he wrote. He had a generous way of conversing with any person on any topic, converting strangers to friends wherever he went. He was endlessly curious about the goings-on of life, and delighted in anecdotes as much as in novels. And though he never wrote an autobiography, he played the comedic protagonist in some beloved bits of family lore, always recounting his own absent-minded foibles with easy geniality.

During his final days, Charles was still writing, still lighting up at every face and name. On 19 November 2024, Charles was called on to heaven; he said he'd heard Jo Ann beckoning him, telling him to come on home.

He was also preceded in death by his mother, Margaret; brother, Dan; and his sister, Mary Ann.

Surviving are his loving daughters Alison Hodges (Charles) and Laurie Graves Morris (David); granddaughters Rachel Jones (Austin), Sarah Graves, Kathryn Kilboy (Jim), Kilby Yarbrough (David), and Chasity Nguyen; grandsons Cory Cotham, Curt Cotham (Rita) and Jonathan Graves, great-granddaughters Bea Cotham and Annie Jones, and great-grandson Nathan Jones. He loved his family deeply.

“May the Lord bless your going out and your coming in, from this time forth, now and forevermore.”



# Events


**Charles Eugene Turner**

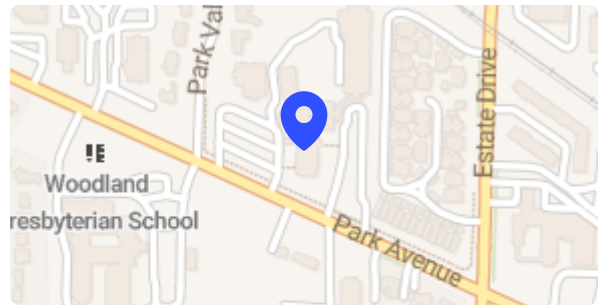
JUL 18, 1930 - NOV 19, 2024

## Visitation

 **Saturday**, November 23, 2024


 1:00 PM CT


 **Christ the King Lutheran Church**  
5296 Park Ave, Memphis TN 38119

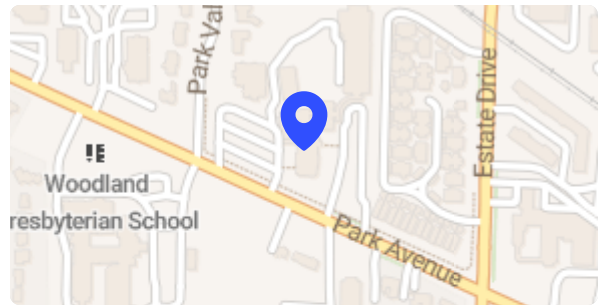


## Memorial Service

 **Saturday**, November 23, 2024

 2:00 PM CT

 **Christ the King Lutheran Church**  
5296 Park Ave, Memphis TN 38119





# Tribute Wall

**Charles Eugene Turner**

JUL 18, 1930 - NOV 19, 2024



**Jimmy Hedrick** posted:

I was blessed by God to be Charles "boss" at The Christian Discount Book store in the Perimeter Mall. I was a rookie transplanted Midwesterner who was green behind the ears when it came to knowing Southern culture. Your patriarch was my tutor in a gentlemanly way. It was so fun to watch him engage with customers and rarely attempt to ahh ADD on a few sales! He was my ecumenical connection to the Mid South. I thank God for my writing artist neighbor. Jimmy Dean Hedrick Shalom be yours in Christ alone.

April 4 at 8:51 PM



**Daphne Brown & Family** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Turner family.



November 23 at 6:34 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Turner family.



November 23 at 5:56 AM



**Elizabeth Mckay Field** posted:

Dear ones, you know we always refer to Jo Ann and Charlie as our "Memphis Parents". And you all as our Memphis family. Anytime we had a performance, even long after we lived elsewhere, they were there with bells on - even when it became a challenge for them. Charlie had a talent for taking in strays and he sought Steve out at Independent Pres when he was a lonely bachelor doing his masters degree. After that, the rest was inevitable. Those two special people and all of you are why we considered Memphis home. Pretty amazing feat considering we were a couple of Connecticut Yankees. I don't think we ever walked into Oak Court Mall without seeing him at his table there with his pocket notebook and pen gathering ideas for his writing. We will miss them both forever. We wish we could be there today to celebrate Charlie's life with you all. We are there in our hearts. Liz & Steve Field

November 23 at 5:30 AM



# Tribute Wall

**Charles Eugene Turner**

JUL 18, 1930 - NOV 19, 2024



**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Turner family.

November 23 at 5:16 AM



**From Alison, Chuck And Family** sent a Fall Fantasia to the Turner family.

November 22 at 10:25 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Turner family.

November 22 at 7:51 AM



**Andy & Lezlie Biggers** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Turner family.

November 22 at 7:41 AM



**Germantown Plantation Senior Living** sent a Joyful Memory to the Turner family.

November 22 at 7:09 AM



**Carolyn And Pam** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Turner family.

November 22 at 6:41 AM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Charles by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit



**MEMORIAL PARK**  
Funeral Home & Cemetery