



## Fred J. Turner

April 2, 1933 - March 16, 2017

Fred J. Turner, 83, of Bonita Springs, FL, passed away on Thursday, March 16, 2017. Formerly of Hazel Crest, IL, he had been a seasonal resident of Bonita Springs for over 20 years and a permanent resident since 2012. He was born April 2, 1933 in Hazel Crest, the son of Fred J. Turner and Elizabeth (née Palus) Zimmer.

Mr. Turner graduated from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN and the Mayo Clinic PT Program in Rochester, MN. He practiced Physical Therapy for over 40 years. He established and directed Physical Therapy Departments at St. Francis Hospital in Blue Island, IL and St. James Hospital in Chicago Heights, IL before opening his outpatient Physical Therapy Clinic "P.T.S.I.R" in 1976. Today P.T.S.I.R. has 5 clinics in the southwest suburbs of Chicago. He was a member of the American Physical Therapy Association and an original member of the Sports Physical Therapy Section. He served on the executive board and was an active member of the Sports Physical Therapy Section until his retirement in 2001. He was a member of the National Athletic Trainers Association for over 35 years, recognized by the NATA for his "Outstanding Achievement in Athletic Training" by the Continuing Education Committee of the NATA. He was inducted into the Illinois Athletic Trainers Hall of Fame in 1986 and elected to the Thornton High School Hall of Fame. He was head Athletic Trainer for several high schools including the Tinley Park High School 1986 State Champion Football Team. Other schools

included Thornton, Thornwood, and Bloom High Schools.

His hobbies included fishing from fly fishing to fresh water to deep sea. He was an avid golfer, enjoying the greens of Calumet County Club where he served as President as well as many other courses, eventually making his way to the courses of Scotland. Dad will be best known professionally and personally by all the countless athletes, patients and friends who loved and respected dad for his selfless individual care. He was the gentle giant.

Mr. Turner is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Claire A. (née Meiferdt) Turner; his beloved children, Fred J. Turner II of Sarasota, FL, Therese (Timothy) Post of Braidwood, IL and Suzy Turner (Dennis Miller) of Bonita Springs, FL; his sister, Sherry (Bill) Bannon of Lady lake, FL; five cherished grandchildren, Abbie (Chris) Teague, Adam (Maria) Post, Aaron Post, Joseph (Michelle) Turner and Lauren Chapman-Turner; and seven great grandchildren, Chelsey Bottoms, Airiana Post, Alixandrea Post, Emerson Teague, Monroe Teague, Camden Turner and Catalena Turner.

Services will be private and held at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fred J. Turner*

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October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM

“ Dear Claire, Suzy, Teri and Fred:

*I am saddened to be writing this as I can't personally be with you at Dad's memorial gathering. I would be remiss, however, not to take the time to acknowledge a man who I truly respected and always appreciated. Fred, Claire and Tom were one of my first customers in 1983 or '84 followed by Greg when I started LifeTec. We supplied the equipment for some of their early clinic expansions. Through our business together we became friends.*

*I loved to listen to his annual Canadian fly fishing stories with Doc, his golfing heroics at Calumet and his love of ND and football. He was a handsome man, but would have looked so much better if they had face masks back then. We golfed many times at Calumet CC, Royal Melbourne and elsewhere over the years. He even invited me to golf with him and Carlton Fisk one day knowing that Fisk's hand was injured and he couldn't beat us. He did get the putting yips one year and was forced to use a two foot putter. Don't know how he bent over that much for 18 holes. It was amusing to watch. As funny as that may be, it was as amusing as the Doberman, Great Dane or some other canine monster that Claire and Fred owned. I'm sure he was a wonderful pet, Claire, but I'm convinced he was human. It sat on the couch next to me with his legs crossed, his snout to my face, as if he was interviewing me as to why I was in the house. It looked at me as if I was a teenager dating Suzi or Teri. I almost said I'd promise to have Fred back home by dark.*

*Fred was living proof of how fine a person can be. He was a loving husband to his wife, Claire, and a devoted father to his children. He was also a good friend. Wish I had spent more time with him. I regret never fishing with him. I'm sure I would have smiled the whole trip. The character of the life he lived might be summed up in a few words: he was sincere, he was earnest, he was loyal.*

*He had a great sense of humor and a gentle demeanor. He was bright, logical and systematic in his thinking. He was always willing to share his ideas and information. Always passionate and interested in new clinical options for therapy treatments, he was always open to new rehab*

*techniques. He was a pioneer in to the therapy and athletic training fields. He and Tom were one of the first private practice groups to start multiple therapy centers and cover high schools for their sports teams. He worked with passion, integrity and energy. By his death all the people who knew him will miss a highly intelligent, vibrant individual with a rare friendliness and charm. Fred was a genuinely warm and wonderful individual—one we will miss greatly. Our sorrow is lessened only slightly with the comforting thought that we had the privilege to know him.*

*Miss you, Fred.*

*Mike*

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*Mike Christoi*

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**Mike Christoi** - August 28, 2017 at 06:32 PM

SR

*“ I was privileged to know him if only for a short time. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family especially to Suzy who gave so much of herself to make his life better. I have never seen a more loving and dedicated daughter to her father. May the wonderful memories you have together give you peace. When you need a shoulder I will always be there for you. Your dearest friend, Sheila Rollins*

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**Sheila Rollins** - March 25, 2017 at 01:41 PM

BF

*“ My condolences and prayers to the Turner family.*

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**Bill Fassnacht** - March 25, 2017 at 12:57 PM

SG

“ I spent many afternoons with both of our Dads. Your Dad helped myDad through several surgeries, my Dad was so stubborn he would only go to Fred and only listen to him. Your Father was a kind, compassionate man. Please find comfort in your memories.

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**sharon gill** - March 24, 2017 at 08:31 PM

AB

“ Aside from his gift as a Physical Therapist, Athletic Trainer and Mentor to many Fred had the kindest heart. When you left him after a get together you were full. He was a Special gift to all who knew him. He had a way of making whatever was troubling you not-so-bad. In addition to being an awesome Fisherman. My condolences to all-Claire, Suzy, Terri, Fred and all the family.

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**Anna Breyts-Regnier** - March 24, 2017 at 06:03 PM

RP

“ My deepest sympathy top the family for your loss....although I've only got to know Mr. Turner for a short period of time I can say that man was a strong soul. I thank the Lord for the time I've gotten to know him and have your family in my prayers for healing.

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**Rebecca Pachetti** - March 24, 2017 at 05:49 PM