



James Kenneth Turner

April 19, 1934 - April 26, 2017

James Kenneth Turner of Ada, Oklahoma was born April 19, 1934 to O.V. and Anice Turner in Stratford, Oklahoma. He passed away in Norman, Oklahoma on April 26, 2017 at the age of 83 years and 7 days, with his loving family right beside him. He was raised in Stratford, where he played high school basketball and baseball. He was married to Anita Sue Farr. He received his Master's degree from East Central and second Master's from O.U. His coaching career started at Fox and Hollis, then he was named assistant basketball coach and head baseball coach at ECU and retired 35 years later, which gave him even more time to pursue his hobbies of golf and yard work. He loved the Lord with all his heart and was a faithful member of the First United Methodist Church. He was such a loving and kind, gentle, generous father, grandfather and great-grandfather and we take comfort knowing he is now reunited again with those so near and dear to him.

Preceded in death by his wife, son Kenny, grandson Kris, and brother Jerry. ,

Survived by; daughter and son-in-law Vicki and Kieth; three grandchildren; Jami, Shane, and Stephanie, seven great-grandchildren; sister; Fahn Flanigan; and dog, Buddy.

Ken, Vicki and Kieth would like to send a special heartfelt thank you to Corissa, Katie, Cathy, Becky, and Earl of Halo Hospice and to his neighbors,

Tony and Sherry. We are so grateful for your kindness, love, and acts of compassion.

Graveside Services; 1:00 PM Monday May 1, 2017 in McGee cemetery, Stratford, Oklahoma. Officiating; Rev. Earl Hood.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAY 1. 1:00 PM (CT)

McGee
Stratford, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *James Kenneth Turner*

October 05, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *THANK YOU COACH TURNER FOR YOUR SUPPORT. YOU WERE A GREAT COACH, AND A WONDERFUL HUMAN BEING. I WILL NEVER FORGET HOW YOU HELPED TO MAKE ME FEEL COMFORTABLE WHILE AT EAST CENTRAL. I PRAY THAT GOD WILL COMFORT YOUR FAMILY DURING THIS TIME. MAY GOD BLESS THE LIFE OF COACH KEN TURNER. FAMILY, I WILL CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR YOU.*

REGINALD GRACE, SR. AND FAMILY-RGRACE1953@aol.com

Reginald Grace, Sr. - May 02, 2017 at 12:03 PM

“ Dear Turner Family,

My deepest sympathies for your loss. Like several great ECU leaders who took an interest in helping shape my life, Coach Turner remained a trusted friend and mentor for over 45 years. I met Coach Turner on my first morning on campus in the fall of 1971, having just driven cross country to Ada to claim my basketball scholarship. Despite being a schoolyard kid with New Jersey accent, Coach Turner took an immediate liking to me. He helped me get enrolled in class and find my way around campus in my first days.

Coach Turner was as tough and as smart as any coach I ever played for or worked with. I never met anyone who wanted to win more than he did. And he did not suffer fools or slackers well. I can still hear him yelling at me with that gruff Oklahoma voice of his - “Damn it to heck, Augie – if you don’t shoot where and when I tell you to, I’m a gonna take you out of the dang game!” I told him he would never have to take me out of a game for failing to shoot!

More than winning, Coach wanted to you to give your all – win or lose...The lessons he taught me in hundreds of practices and scores of games has stayed with me all of my life.

After graduation I made a point of staying in touch. Coach liked getting my annual holiday newsletters and with every visit I made to Ada, I never failed to stop to see him. He liked to hear about my sons’ athletic and academic endeavors and how I tried to coach and teach them to be tough competitors on the court and in the classroom - just like he taught me...

I was proud to be among Coach’s former players who worked with ECU President Hargrave to honor Coach Turner by naming the baseball field after him and holding the ceremony during Homecoming when so many of his players could attend. Also, the endowed scholarship we created in his honor will be a lasting legacy.

Coach Ken Turner touched a lot of lives for the better and he will be missed. But as long as loyalty and giving your all still counts for something, he will not be forgotten. God bless you, Coach Turner.

Your Friend, August "Augie" Petersen

August Petersen - April 30, 2017 at 07:01 PM

GS

“ *I played baseball for the EC Tigers and Coach Turner from the spring of 1970 to 1973. Even though he was a strict coach and I received more than my share of chewing outs (since I was a catcher also, which made some worse), I enjoyed playing and learned a lot from him about the game of baseball. I have some fond memories of the years I played. Also, when my Junior class of EC, we won the conference title, which was the first time in many years, then went on to beat the West side for the whole conference at that time. Unfortunately we were beaten in the playoffs to go on to the Nationals, but still had a great year.*

He will be missed. So sorry for the loss!

Glendon (Glen) SpencerEC class of 1973.

spencer_glendon@yahoo.com

Glendon (Glen) Spencer - April 30, 2017 at 11:04 AM

EB

“ *One of East Centrals Great Coaches and a good friend. Elmer and Bettye Brown*

Elmer Brown - April 30, 2017 at 07:54 AM

DP

“ I share in your loss of Ken he was an active member of our Men's Bible Study and the Home Builders Sunday School class where he always had a joke to tell. Hope that you can find comfort in the fact that he is in Heaven with his wife Anita and other family and friends and he is not hurting any more. He has been given a new body. But he will be missed by all of us that have had the joy and pleasure of knowing Coach! May God Bless you in the days ahead. Sincerely Dale Pflaum

Dale Pflaum - April 28, 2017 at 11:00 AM

JM

“ Juanita Matthews lit a candle in memory of James Kenneth Turner



Juanita Matthews - April 28, 2017 at 09:28 AM