



Rodney Turner

November 18, 1922 - November 5, 2014

Rodney Turner, our beloved husband, father, and grandfather passed from mortality at the age of 91, Nov. 5, 2014. He was born Nov. 18, 1922 in Norfolk, VA, the youngest of 10 children. His family moved to New York City at the start of the Great Depression where he and his mother were the first of his family members converted to the LDS Church when he was 8 years old. Shortly after finishing high school in New York, he was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II and was a ball turret gunner on a B-24 bomber while stationed in Italy.

Upon his release from the service as staff sergeant, he obtained his BA and MA degrees and married his eternal companion, Bonnie Lou Dalley while attending Brigham Young University. He served as an LDS Seminary teacher and principal and earned his Doctorate in Education from the University of Southern California. In 1956, he began 32 years as instructor and professor at BYU in the College of Religious Instruction. He greatly enjoyed his association with the religion faculty. Since his retirement in 1988, he was often approached by his former students thanking him for his great insights and inspired teaching of the Gospel.

He was well known for his stimulating lectures and published works. He wrote numerous articles for church publications. His published books include *Woman and the Priesthood*, *The Footstool of God: Earth in Scripture and Prophecy*, *This Eternal Earth*, and *Jesus and Joseph*, which he wrote when he was 83 years old. He loved poetry and wrote numerous poems. His poetic abilities expanded to include writing lyrics to church hymns in partnership with fellow ward member, Janice Kapp Perry, who wrote the music.

He served in church callings throughout his life and was bishop of the BYU 4th Ward and the Pleasant View 8th Ward in Provo. He served on church committees, as a stake high councilor, temple worker, in a branch presidency at the Missionary Training Center, and as a gospel doctrine teacher. After retirement, he and his wife served an education mission to Hawaii in 1993. He also was a tour guide to Israel and taught at the Jerusalem Center.

He enjoyed fishing, golfing, gardening, writing, and eating ice cream. He loved to be by the ocean having grown up by the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. All of his children fondly remember the many fishing trips to Strawberry Reservoir with Dad.

In his testimony he wrote, "I testify that, in spite of life's trials and disappointments, our all-wise Father is both just and merciful and that the righteous life is the truly intelligent life, and the only life worth living."

He is survived by his devoted wife, Bonnie Lou; their 6 children: sons, Michael (Cindy), Evan (Judy), Stephen (Debbie), Jeffrey (Sheri); daughters: Tracy (John Tallent) and Rebecca (Mark Hansen); 32 grandchildren and 56 great-grandchildren.

The family expresses appreciation for the wonderful care provided by UVRMC, Orchard Park Post-Acute Rehab Center, and Curo Home Health and Hospice.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, November 15, 2014 at the Sharon East Stake Center, 2400 North 1060 East, Provo, Utah. Friends may call at the church from 9:30-10:45 a.m. prior to services. Interment, East Lawn Memorial Hills. Condolences may be sent online at <http://www.bergmortuary.com>.

Cemetery

Eastlawn Memorial Hills

4800 North 650 East
Provo, UT, 84604

Events

NOV **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:45AM

15

Sharon East Stake Center
2400 North 1060 East, Provo, UT, US, 84604

NOV **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

15

Sharon East Stake Center
2400 North 1060 East, Provo, UT, US, 84604

Comments



“ I have great love for Brother Turner.

His religion classes were engaging from beginning to end; his teaching style elicited creative thinking. Beneath his refreshing humor and candor was an unmistakable spirituality which had a deep influence upon me. He's at the top of my list.

Michael F Moody

Michael F Moody - November 20, 2014 at 08:04 PM



“ My wife-to-be, Karen, and I were taking Brother Turner's class together. Late in that semester, her parents had flown to Provo in a private plane to meet me. It turned out to be the only time I met them, for on the return trip to California, their plane went down. The Civil Air Patrol called off the search after two weeks. We decided to have Karen drop a few classes and go to California to await additional developments in the search for her parents. Since it was past the deadline to drop classes, it was my task to take a permission slip to the teachers whose courses Karen sought to withdraw from. Brother Turner was kind and respectfully sorrowful to hear of the circumstances. He signed the form. I continued in the class. He asked at various times if we had heard anything further on the search. The semester ended in May. As it turned out, the wreckage was not discovered until July. We had married after the semester and worked in California. My point is that Rodney Turner was a disciplined, focused, demanding professor who also was compassionate and approachable. I join those others who are sharing their respect for a one-of-a-kind scholar and professor. May the family be fully comforted and be open in sharing their remembrances.

Also, in the "missed opportunities" department, I did not know until reading the obituary that Brother Turner had been a ball-turret gunner on a B-24 in World War II. My father was the pilot of a B-24, but was lost in action over Austria. I wish during my faculty years at BYU I had known about that dimension of Brother Turner's experience. All the best.

--Terry Olson

Professor Emeritus, School of Family Life

Fellow, The Wheatley Institution

BYU

Terry Olson - November 13, 2014 at 07:26 PM



“ Bro. Turner was one of my favorite teachers at BYU back in the 70s.

Melanie Lahman - November 12, 2014 at 02:01 PM