



William F. "Cotton" Turner Sr.

November 17, 1928 - May 13, 2018

Services for William Franklin "Cotton" Turner, 89 of Tyler, Texas, will be held on Thursday, May 17, at 11:00 a.m. at Marvin United Methodist Church with Reverend Dr. Doug Baker and Reverend Gerry Giles officiating. A private burial will precede the service at Rose Hill Cemetery under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. There will be a reception following the service at Horton Hall.

Cotton was born November 17, 1928 in Smackover, Arkansas to John W. Turner and Virginia Coleman Turner. He lived in Kilgore, Texas and attended Kilgore Junior High School and Kilgore High School where he was president of his class. He received a Bachelor of Liberal Arts Degree from the University of Texas in Austin in 1951. From 1951 to 1954, Cotton served his country in the U.S. Army as a Special Undercover Agent in the Counter Intelligence Division in the Bunter-Intelligence Corps. He was stationed in Salzburg, Linz, and Vienna Austria, and performed undercover work in the Russian Zone.

Following his service in the U.S. Army, he attended the University of Texas Law School and received his Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree in 1956.

He married Etheldra Adams Turner "Punkin", in 1954 and was admitted to the Texas State Bar in 1956. In August of 1956, Punkin and Cotton moved to Tyler, where he worked for Humble Oil and Refining Company and Exxon

Company U.S.A. from 1956 until 1981 and Exxon Coal Resources, USA Office in Tyler from 1981 until he retired in 1986. Cotton served as President of the Humble Federal Credit Union of Tyler. Cotton was a member of the Texas Bar Association, the Smith County Bar Association, The Texas Mineral Institute, East Texas Association of Petroleum Landmen, American Association of Petroleum Landmen and was a board member of Hard Mineral Division Landmen.

Cotton was a member of Marvin United Methodist Church where he served as president of the Chapel Sunday School Class.

He served as President of the Tyler Tennis and Swim club and was chairman of "East Texas Open Tennis Tournament.

Cotton had passion for both The University of Texas and The University of Texas at Tyler (UT Tyler). He has served on the UT Tyler College of Engineering Advisory Council since 2008 and on the parent UT Tyler Development Board since 2012. He and Punkin have established several endowed scholarships at UT Tyler including the Margaret DeLoach Adams Memorial Scholarship and the Cotton and Punkin Turner Scholarship.

In addition, they made a gift to fund the Cotton and Punkin Executive Conference Room which is part of the engineering dean's administrative suite in the College of Engineering and are long time supporters of the Cowan Center.

Cotton was preceded in death by his parents, and one brother, Wallace Turner.

He is survived by his wife, Punkin, son, Dr. William Franklin Turner, Jr. and wife Jody of Tyler, daughter, Carol Turner Woolley and husband Buddy of Longview, and son, John Samuel Turner of Galveston; grandchildren Franklin

Turner of Dallas, Chloe Turner of Tyler, Hudson Johnson of Longview, Lauren Anne Brookshire and husband Wood of Dallas, Rachel Turner, Cotton Turner, Margaret Turner, and Sam Turner all of Houston.

Cotton was a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather who enjoyed spending time with his family. He had a contagious sense of humor and wit. He will be remembered by everyone who knew him as a true gentleman with the utmost integrity who showed kindness to all. He was an avid outdoorsman who especially enjoyed spending time at his ranch in Robertson County.

Honorary Pallbearers will be David Ashcraft, Jim Deakins, Jan Garrett, Morris Gary, David Hudson, Allen Locklin, Jimmy Russell, Glenn Taylor, and Bernie Ward and Butch Walter.

Tribute Wall

EM

“ Dear Punky and family you have my sincere condolences. I have fond childhood memories of visits to Henderson. Cotton was always so kind and considerate. I'm so sorry for your loss. Ella Lawson Murphy.



Ella Murphy - May 23, 2018 at 01:58 AM

JR

“ Dear Punkin and family, I'm hurting with you. May you be comforted. Cotton, my friend of 75 years, I'll remember our great times together. I feel we'll all meet again some day. With my love to you all, Jimmy Russell

Jimmy Russell - May 17, 2018 at 09:00 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William F. "Cotton" Turner Sr..



May 16, 2018 at 06:08 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of William F. "Cotton" Turner Sr..



May 15, 2018 at 06:16 PM

GT

“ Galveston, TX purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William F. "Cotton" Turner Sr..



Galveston, TX - May 15, 2018 at 05:32 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of William F. "Cotton" Turner Sr..



May 15, 2018 at 10:55 AM

DA

“ David W Ashcraft lit a candle in memory of William F. "Cotton" Turner Sr.



David w Ashcraft - May 15, 2018 at 09:54 AM

TF

“ The Ashcraft family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of William F. "Cotton" Turner Sr..



The Ashcraft family - May 15, 2018 at 09:51 AM

DA

“ Cotton used to tell me and John "I need two good men to help me for about 20 minutes" so we'd laugh and grab a 12 pack and get set for an all day project. :-)... Good times...

David w Ashcraft - May 15, 2018 at 09:46 AM

CS

“ CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health System purchased the Sweet Remembrance Spray for the family of William F. "Cotton" Turner Sr..



CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health System - May 15, 2018 at 09:44 AM