

William L. Turppa

January 15, 1940 - August 14, 2025

Services for William Leroy Turppa, 85, of Whitehouse will be held on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home with Mr. John Prestridge officiating. Visitation is scheduled from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. prior to the service.

Mr. Turppa passed away Thursday, August 14, 2025, in Tyler. He was born January 15, 1940, in Lewiston, MI to Robert L. Turppa and Alice McKenzie Walker.

William was a Bronze Star Recipient. He was a part of the VFW #1799 and the American Legion 418. He graduated from Lewiston High School. He held the position Road Administrator of Guadalupe County, Texas. He was a Retired Veteran of the United States Air Force.

Bill was proud to be one of the founding members of the 554TH RED HORSE Squadron and to have served in covert operations in Laos — missions he could never speak about, but which exemplified his courage and dedication. He also found joy in restoring and driving classic cars and motorcycles, keeping the spirit of the open road alive.

William was preceded in death by his father and mother; son, William Todd Turppa; and grandson, Thomas “Chompers” Turppa. He is survived by his

loving family, including his wife of 65 years, Mary Helen Turppa; son, Thomas Neal Turppa; daughter, Karen Turppa Swisher; son-in-law, Thomas E. Swisher; four grandchildren, Andrew, Brandon, Destiny, and Kyle; three great-grandchildren, Lexiss, Julianna, and Uziah.

If desired, memorials may be made to Hospice of East Texas, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701 (<https://hospiceofeasttexas.org>).

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 19. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Service

AUG 19. 3:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of William L. Turppa



Stewart Family Funeral Home - August 18, 2025 at 02:57 PM

MC

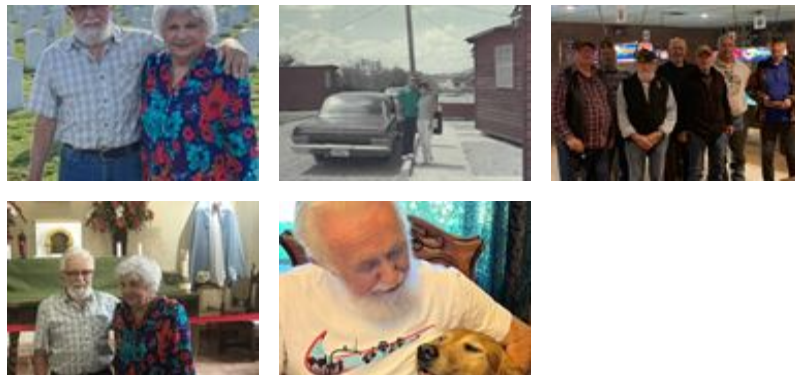
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



mckenzie - August 25, 2025 at 11:56 AM



“ 77 files added to the album Life Tributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - August 18, 2025 at 02:53 PM

MF

“ *Martinez & Calamaco Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of William L. Turppa.*



Martinez & Calamaco Family - August 18, 2025 at 12:58 AM

MT

“ *Mom, Karen, Tom, Kyle and Destiny,*

I will always have fond memories of Dad. He was more like a father than a father in law to me in the past. I had many fun times with all of you. So sad to hear the news.

Mary Turppa - August 17, 2025 at 11:16 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William L. Turppa.*



August 16, 2025 at 10:26 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William L. Turppa.*

August 16, 2025 at 10:26 PM

MC

“ We are so sorry to hear about Bill's passing. He was an amazing man. Our heart goes out to his family. Bob and sheryl mcclinton

Mcclinton - August 16, 2025 at 10:21 PM

CJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Chet Johnson - August 16, 2025 at 07:52 PM

CJ

“ In memory of Bill Turppa, proud U.S. Air Force RED HORSE veteran, Bronze Star recipient, and true American patriot. You built more than bases — you built friendships, loyalty, and laughter. We shared countless glasses of bourbon and stories that'll never be forgotten. Raise a glass, brother. You've earned your rest. Until we meet again — Aim High.

Chet Johnson - August 16, 2025 at 09:49 AM

CJ

Bill was proud to be one of the founding members of the RED HORSE Squadron and to have served in covert operations in Laos — missions he could never speak about, but which exemplified his courage and dedication. He also found joy in restoring and driving classic cars and motorcycles, keeping the spirit of the open road alive.

Chet Johnson - August 16, 2025 at 10:21 AM

AT

“ Andrew Turppa purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of William L. Turppa.



Andrew Turppa - August 15, 2025 at 01:42 PM

AT

“ Andrew Turppa planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William L. Turppa.

Andrew Turppa - August 15, 2025 at 01:42 PM

BS

“ Bob & Bonnie Jean, Kristin, Jamie, Mckenzie, Kylee, Josh & Sophia purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of William L. Turppa.



Bob & Bonnie Jean, Kristin, Jamie, Mckenzie, Kylee, Josh & Sophia - August 15, 2025 at 12:44 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of William L. Turppa.



August 15, 2025 at 09:29 AM

FF

“ From Wolf family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of William L. Turppa.



From Wolf family - August 15, 2025 at 08:34 AM

LK

“ Love Candy, Rick, Rob and Kerry. purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of William L. Turppa.



Love Candy, Rick, Rob and Kerry. - August 15, 2025 at 08:12 AM

LK

“ Love Candy, Rick, Rob and Kerry. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William L. Turppa.

Love Candy, Rick, Rob and Kerry. - August 15, 2025 at 08:12 AM

CF

“ William you may be gone from this earth, but I will forever carry you in my heart. May God grant peace to your loved ones, knowing you now rest in the arms of our Lord.

Candy Fox - August 15, 2025 at 07:49 AM

TS

“ God bless Bill’s soul and comfort Mary and his family 🙏. S/F Tom Sowell

tom sowell - August 14, 2025 at 08:48 PM