



## Thomas Lane Turpin Jr.

February 7, 1954 - October 7, 2025

Thomas Lane Turpin Jr., age 71, passed away peacefully on October 7, 2025.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 43 years, Janet Johnson Turpin, and their two daughters, Mary Kathleen Renaudin (Will) and Lauren Taylor Monjeau (Derek). He also leaves behind three beloved grandchildren — Madyson Taylor Trueblood, Peyton Ann Trueblood, and Shepard Lane Monjeau — as well as his sister, Terri Lindstrand Turpin, who moved to Oxford to be by his side throughout his courageous battle with cancer. Tom is also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews, dear friends, and former colleagues whom he considered family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Thomas Lane Turpin and Nadine Lindstrand Segabarth, his sister Tracy Turpin Young, and his son Jay Thomas Turpin.

Tom was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on February 7, 1954, weighing just 1 pound, 9 ounces. At the time, he was the smallest baby to survive, earning a feature in the newspaper as “Tiny Tommy Turpin” when he was finally able to go home. At age two, his family moved to Tunica, Mississippi, where he spent a joyful childhood filled with basketball games in the driveway, imaginative “Army battles” with his sisters, and endless hours tinkering with his forest green Vega — taking it apart to the nuts and bolts and rebuilding it weekend

after weekend. It was, perhaps, his earliest training for dental school.

Tom loved Tunica deeply and often reminisced about its people and history. After attending Ole Miss and later Memphis State University, he began dental school just one week after marrying Janet. Following his graduation in 1986, Tom established his dental practice in Memphis and joined the US Army National Guard. In 1998, he moved his family to Arkansas, where he began his long and dedicated career at the VA, eventually serving as Chief of Dentistry.

Following 9/11, Tom was deployed four times to Iraq. Through his service and leadership, he rose to the rank of Colonel. Tom was deeply proud of his military service and carried an unwavering love for his country throughout his life.

Above all, Tom loved his family and friends. He was immensely proud of his wife and children, and he cherished every moment spent with them. He had a generous heart, a curious mind, and a giving spirit — always ready to help a friend or even a stranger in need.

Tom lived a life marked by love, service, and compassion — a life truly well spent.

A celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday, October 14 at First Presbyterian Church in Hernando, MS at 1:30 pm. Private interment will be at the West Tennessee Veterans Cemetery at a later date

In lieu of traditional flowers the family has requested that donations be given to Tunnels to Towers Foundation by clicking on the following link <https://t2t.org/donate>.



# Cemetery Details

## West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery

4000 Forest Hill Irene Rd  
Memphis, TN 38125

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT **14**. 1:30 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church of Hernando  
1455 McIngvale Rd  
Hernando, MS 38632

# Tribute Wall

EJ

“ Prayers for the family. I knew the Turpin family when we lived in Tunica many, many years ago. It was a wonderful place to grow up. Dr Turpin ( his father) was the local dentist and Tommy was my brother's (Billy) age and I was Terri's. I recall spending lots of time in the Turpin home and all of the fun times we had. I am sad to read of Tracy's passing. Sadly we have also lost several siblings. I live in Grenada now and would love to see Terri at some point if she is still in Oxford. You all may recall the Ferguson family who had many kids! Keeping the memories of you all close to my heart. May God give you peace. Elin Ferguson Juchheim

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**Elin Ferguson Juchheim** - October 22, 2025 at 08:30 AM

MB

“*Dr. Turpin was not only a remarkable man but also one of the most influential mentors I’ve ever had the privilege to work with. During the six years I spent under his guidance, he taught me far more than just professional skills—he showed me what true patience, leadership, and integrity look like. His calm demeanor and steady hand were qualities I deeply admired and aspired to emulate. Because of his mentorship, I grew in ways I never imagined possible—especially in how I approach people and challenges.*

*I will always be profoundly grateful for the friendship and kindness that both Dr. Turpin and Ms. Janet extended to me. Their warmth and generosity left a lasting impression on my life. I will forever cherish the daily conversations we shared—about football, family, the military, and life itself. Those talks, especially the ones about family, meant so much to both of us and always held a special place in our hearts.*

*Dr. Turpin was more than a mentor—he was a true friend. His wisdom, compassion, and presence will never be forgotten. I will carry his lessons with me always. May he rest in peace, knowing the profound impact he had on so many lives.*

*Mike Barnes*

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**Mike Barnes** - October 15, 2025 at 11:09 AM

CM

“*COL Sean and Shannon McDougal purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Thomas Lane Turpin Jr..*



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**COL Sean and Shannon McDougal** - October 13, 2025 at 02:23 PM

GM

“ I first met Tom during a weekend when I was covering dental exams at the Troop Medical Clinic at Camp Robinson as a new captain not familiar with the Little Rock area. I had brought my golf clubs and asked Tom if he knew if there was a driving range nearby. He smiled and kindly stated, "I can do do you better than that." After we were finished with exams, he took me to Greystone Country Club in Cabot, where he was a member, and treated to me to an enjoyable round of golf, as his guest at the gorgeous course. Thus began a lifetime friendship with one of the most generous and kind men I have ever known.

*In the ensuing years, I spent some wonderful times with Tom; playing golf, going to Cabot football games, eating lunch (and often dinner) after working all day doing national guard dental exams and enjoying his and Janet's hospitality in their beautiful home.*

*As a member of the Army National Guard, Tom was a great mentor, always looking to take care of myself and other junior officers. He was an incredible patriot and even greater man.*

*Rest easy my good friend. You will be missed but never forgotten!!!  
Sean McDougal, COL, DC, USA*

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**Gregory S McDougal** - October 13, 2025 at 01:52 PM

AS

“ Amber, Hannah, Ramsy, Samantha & Schley purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Thomas Lane Turpin Jr..



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**Amber, Hannah, Ramsy, Samantha & Schley** - October 13, 2025 at 01:33 PM

MM

“ Dr. Tom was a great dental school classmate and great man. Very proud of his service to our country and the VA-it was a tremendous calling. He was also the biggest Ole Miss fan there was-Hotty Toddy Tom! He will indeed be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Janet and all the family.

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**Mark Murphy** - October 12, 2025 at 09:51 PM

MP

“ Meeting Tom and Janet in dental school was one of the best things that ever happened to me. We love y'all. Monty & Carla Parsons

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**Monty Parsons** - October 12, 2025 at 02:50 PM

JO

“ I was an honor to know Tom during the years at the VA Dental Clinic. I will forever be grateful to Tom for bringing me on Full Time at the VA after selling my practice. I will also be grateful for his patience with me as it took time for me to get acclimated to the VA way of paperless progress notes. “Jim remember, if you don't write it in the progress notes, it didn't happen!” But most of all, my favorite memories are from the lunch time discussions with Ron P., Larry K, Ron A., Tom and Myself about SEC football. Tom loved his Ole Miss Rebs! We had it good mainly due to Tom's leadership. Tom you had a life well lived, RIP.

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**Jim Orahood** - October 11, 2025 at 11:46 AM

RP

“ It was an honor to know Tom and his family a call him my friend . I will always remember Tom as a man of faith, a patriot, a respected Clinician, a fearless leader, and a man who loved family, Tom lived a life that is example for us all. Tom you will be missed.

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**Ron Pleis** - October 10, 2025 at 09:30 PM

SS

*Dr Turpin was more than a friend to me. He was a mentor to me. He steered me in the right directions in so many different situations while I worked for him. If I had a question regardless of what it was. He is the one I would call and if he didn't know he would call me normally the same day. Everyday when I was assisting him he would talk about how much he loved Janet and was always about the kids and grandkids. He was a great man and I will surely miss getting information for him. Prayers for all the family!!*

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**sandra simmons** - October 10, 2025 at 10:58 PM

BG

*Tom was many things but foremost he was my friend and colleague. He was there through the good times and the bad times. He was there through peace times and war times. Yet through all of those times his friendship never wavered. He was one of the most caring and good men I have ever known. But with all of the effort he put forth to take care of all the people that he had charge of as the Chief of Dentistry at the V.A. hospital and as a colonel in the Arkansas National Guard, his main concern was always his wife Janet and his children. His likes are rarely seen in the world today and I shall miss him.*

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**Bob Gardner** - October 12, 2025 at 10:30 AM

SH

*Tom and Janet moved into the neighborhood a few years back and slowly I got to know them. Tom was a man of few words but always so kind and giving. No matter what you might need he had it, not just one but multiples! He was always prepared for whatever project or repair! He loved his family, country, the military and Ole Miss! I will miss him and his dry sense humor but so blessed to have Janet in my life as she is a kind and giving friend. Prayers for his family 🙏🙏*

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**Sasha Hedges** - October 12, 2025 at 11:04 AM

GD

*COL Turpin's leadership and unbelievable work ethic helped to drastically improve the dental health of the soldiers in the Arkansas National Guard and projected the organization into a national spotlight -- ranking as one of the top Guard units in the nation in dental health. His leadership and programs that he put in place are still intact and serve as a model for all other Guard units to follow. He took me "under his wing" mentoring and teaching on every drill weekend eventually helping me get promoted. His generosity overflowed with regular meals that he provided to the dental team -- and he always remembered my family during the holidays with a smoked ham or turkey. We shared a common heritage as both being graduates from the University of Tennessee Dental College. He always invited the dental team and other medical officers who were Rebel fans (or not!) over to his beautiful home where his lovely wife served a delicious meal of chicken taco soup with a generous portion of freshly baked pecan pie with ice cream, and we enjoyed SEC football on drill weekends. He will be sorely missed. Peace to Janet and all the family.*

*Glenn Lance, DDS*

*Nashville, AR*

*COL, Arkansas National Guard*

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**GLENN LANCE, D.D.S.** - October 13, 2025 at 03:48 PM