A Celebration of Life

honoring



Sunrise
July 7, 1943

Elder James H. Turner

“Coach”

Sunset
April 5, 2026

Saturday, April 11, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.

Mendenhall Bible Church
309 Center Street, Mendenhall, Mississippi 39114

Marcus Turner, Pastor

The Celebration of Life for Elder "Coach" James H. Turner
The Order of Service

The Processional ..... *Clergy and Family*

Mistress of Ceremonies ..... *Chandar Turner*

Musical Selection ..... *The Turner Family*

The Old Testament ..... *Appointee*
The New Testament ..... *Appointee*

Prayer of Comfort ..... *Appointee*

Musical Selection ..... *Mendenhall Bible Church Choir*

Reflections & Tributes
(A limit of 1-2 minutes each, please.)

As a Coach ..... *Representative from Jackson State University, Southern University, Tougaloo College*

As a Pastor & Friend ..... *Pastor Artis Fletcher*

As a Church Elder ..... *Dr. Dennis Adams*

As a Grandfather ..... *Dequincy Gardner*

Silent Reading of the Obituary ..... *Soft Music*

Musical Selection ..... *Mendenhall Bible Church Choir*

The Eulogy ..... Pastor Marcus Turner

The Recessional ..... *Funeral Director of J&M in Charge*

Interment ..... *Rose Hill M.B. Church Cemetery*
159B Rose Hill Road
Mendenhall, Mississippi 39114





The Obituary

James H. Turner, a titan of basketball, a devoted spiritual leader, and a beloved family patriarch, spent his life dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in his family, on the court, and in the community.

Coach Turner was a "coach's coach," known for a storied career that saw him win championships and mentor generations of athletes. His basketball mind was as sharp as his discipline was firm. This led to him being featured in ***Jet Magazine*** *and sought after for local news broadcasts.*

In a career spanning nearly 50 years, Coach was often hailed as a pioneer who revolutionized basketball with a full-court pressure defense and a signature fast break. His teams were known for defeating nationally ranked opponents, and many of his former athletes went on to play professionally. For him, the ultimate recognition came when the spotlight shined on him as an inductee into the ***Jackson State University Sports Hall of Fame****. He described the induction as the* ***"pinnacle of athletic achievement,"*** *a fitting honor for a man who had already helped so many of his own players earn their place among the greats.*

His coaching journey followed a path of deep impact across the South: ***Mendenhall High School****—where he began his career, laying the foundation for a legacy of hard work;* ***Jackson State University and Southern University****—where he elevated the game at the collegiate level and solidified his Hall of Fame status;* ***Tougaloo College****—where he championed the scholar-athlete;* ***Piney Woods School****—where he continued his mission of shaping the character of young men and women.*

Many knew him for his whistle and clipboard, his impact was equally felt in the church and the boardroom. A man of unwavering faith, he served as a ***Church Elder*** *for many years, offering spiritual guidance and wisdom to Mendenhall Bible Church. His commitment to his community was solidified through his service on the* ***Board of Directors of The Mendenhall Ministries****, where he worked tirelessly to uplift those around him.*

His career was filled with accolades, but his greatest accomplishment was his family. Coach Turner leaves behind a legacy of love. His incomparable wife, Dr. Carrie Ann Turner, preceded him in death. To their union, six children were added: Anslem (Chandar) Turner, Christopher (Sherrell) Turner, Andre (Makiasa) Turner, Marcus (Danya) Turner, Shantay (Gromico) Womack, and James Turner; along with a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



Tributes: James H. Turner Legacy

The Women of His Legacy

To the world, he was "Coach," but to us he was our safe harbor, our confidant, and our greatest advocate.
He didn't just lead our family, he cherished us. He shared his love unequivocally, bridging generations with a warmth that made each of us feel uniquely seen.
Whether we were his daughter by birth, his daughters by marriage,
his granddaughters, or his granddaughters by marriage, he never made a distinction in his affection. He had the rare gift of making every one of us feel like his "favorite," building a special bond rooted in deep respect and a friendship that felt like home. He listened without judgment, advised with grace, and loved without condition. He was the grandfather who never missed an opportunity to impart a lesson and the father who always knew exactly what to say when life felt unbearable.
Thank you for being our biggest fan and showing us what a truly great man looks like. Thank you for the quiet talks, the shared laughs, and the steady strength.
We love you.

With eternal love, Your Daughters and Granddaughters

The Men of His Legacy

James H. Turner, pioneer of the game, but to us, his sons, son-in-law, and grandsons, he was the blueprint for what it means to be a man of God.
He didn't just coach basketball; he taught excellence as a way of life. He demanded our best because he gave his best, and he lived with a rare integrity, he was exactly the same man in the quiet of our home as he was in the spotlight of the arena. There was no shadow between his public words and his private walk.
More than any play he drew up on a clipboard, the most powerful lesson he gave us was his devotion to the Word of God. We grew up watching him study his Bible for hours on end, not just for head knowledge, but for application. He showed us that a man's strength is found on his knees in prayer and in the pages of Scripture. He didn't just tell us the Bible was important, he lived out its truths in front of us every single day.

The bond we shared remains unbroken by death. We carry forward the game plan he etched into our souls... to seek excellence, to live with integrity, and to keep the Word of God at the center of all we do.
Thank you for showing us how to win the only race that matters. We will carry the legacy from here.

With respect ,
Your Sons and Grandsons




























BILOXI

































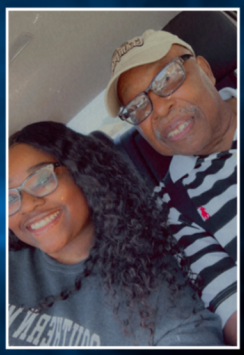



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Acknowledgments

The Turner and Womack families wish to thank the community for the outpouring of love and support during this time. Special thanks are extended to Elaine Fleming and the many caregivers who contributed to his care.



Pallbearers

Sons, Grandsons, & Nephews

Flower Bearers

Granddaughters & Nieces

Repast

Rose Hill Church Fellowship Hall
577 Rose Hill Road
Mendenhall, Mississippi 39114



Services Entrusted to J & M Funeral Home, LLC

732 Dixie Avenue • P.O. Box 475
Mendenhall, Mississippi 39114
(601)847-2911 • www.jandmfuneralhome.com
"Your Trust, Sacredly Kept"



"Final Buzzer"

Coach Turner often said that the game isn't won in the first quarter, but in the preparation and the heart shown until the very end. He has finished his course; he has kept the faith. The scoreboard of his life shows a victory in every life he touched, every player he mentored, and every soul he led toward Christ. Simply put, the only thing that matters in life is what you do for Christ.
The Family of James H. Turner

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