



Ralph Benjamin Turek, Jr.

NOV 29, 1944 - SEP 29, 2025



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Ralph Benjamin Turek, Jr.

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Ralph Benjamin Turek, Jr., 80 years old, born on November 29, 1944, in Havre de Grace, MD, passed away on September 29, 2025, in Middleburg Heights, OH near his hometown of Strongsville, OH.

Ralph grew up in North Versailles, PA, graduated from Westinghouse Memorial High School, earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree from Duquesne University and a Ph.D. in Music Theory and Composition from the University of Cincinnati.

Married for 58 years, Ralph and Donna met at their ninth grade Valentine dance and never looked back. They lived in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland, and finally settled in Strongsville, Ohio where they have lived for 45 years.

He was a Professor of Music at the University of Akron and the author of three college textbooks, including Analytical Anthology of Music, The Elements of Music, and Theory for Today's Musician. After retirement, he continued his love of music, playing keyboards at local establishments, both solo and with other musicians.

A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and brother – he was also a talented musician, composer, author, professor, poet, and activist, with passions for skiing, tennis, and travel. He really lived his life well and with meaning.

He loved to plan family ski trips to Colorado, California, Utah, and New York, where the family ski condo resides. He and Donna enjoyed traveling extensively and could often be found aboard river cruises and visiting national parks. His last vacation in June 2024 included the entire family on an Alaskan cruise. He loved playing with his four granddaughters and encouraging their creative minds.

Ralph is survived by his beloved wife, Donna Turek (nee Neff); his brother, Thomas Turek; his loving daughters, Shara Bohach (Bob), Karlene Gandolf (Ed), and Rayanne Medford (Chance); and



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his cherished granddaughters, Vienna, Ivy, Alia, and Myra. He was preceded in death by his father, Ralph Benjamin Turek, Sr., and his mother Betty Turek (nee Hough).

Donations can be made to Breakthrough T1D (formerly known as JDRF) in Ralph's honor:

<https://www2.breakthrought1d.org/site/Donation2?>

[idb=50466809&df_id=2374&mfc_pref=T&2374.donation=form1](https://www2.breakthrought1d.org/site/Donation2?idb=50466809&df_id=2374&mfc_pref=T&2374.donation=form1)

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2025, from 1:00–5:00pm at Encore Event Center, 16808 Pearl Rd, Strongsville Ohio 44136. The event will be held in The Laurel Room. Please park and enter by the main entrance.

Visitation from 1:00–5:00pm with Remarks and Memory Sharing at 3:00pm.




Events


Ralph Benjamin Turek, Jr.

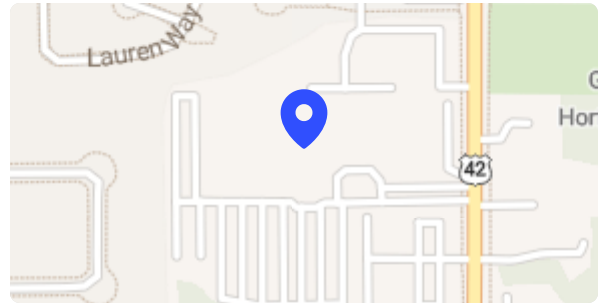
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Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, November 15, 2025

 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET

 **Encore Event Center**
16808 Pearl Road, Strongsville OH 44136





Tribute Wall

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Chris Bohach posted:

Lisa and I very much enjoyed and will never forget the pleasant times sipping on wine with friends and family at Carso Rosso watching him and the band play. His quiet way of leading the band and introducing the songs was quite unique and charismatic. The set breaks where he would come and sit and chat wit us at our table was the BEST!

November 15 at 12:59 PM



Nancy Ernstes posted:

Herm and I played with Donna and Ralph in a Bridge group that got together once a month. Donna loved to play but it was not Ralph's favorite way to spend a Friday evening. He knew how much Donna loved to play. He never once complained and when they hosted he helped with the setting up of tables and serving the snacks probably more than any of the other husbands/partners!The other memory of Ralph was that whenever he talked about his girls he always had a twinkle in his eyes. My dad also had only girls-4 of us. Ralph reminded me of my father when his daughters were concerned--quiet, but very caring and proud of his girls.Nancy Ernstes

November 8 at 3:13 PM



James Nadolski posted:

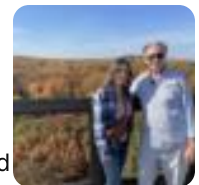
So sad when Donna shared the information, we've been neighbors for years was a good guy so sorry to see you go.RIP RALPH

October 18 at 9:39 PM



Karlene Gandolf shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

It is hard to believe this was one year ago. I am so thankful I convinced you to climb the 120-foot tower with me that day. Autumn is our favorite season. Watching fall foliage ripple across the trees, one of our favorite pass times. Only second to a wicked storm rolling in, with calls not to convince each other to take cover but to ensure we are not missing the spectacular show. Dad, you were a great man, mentor, father, and grandfather. Witnessing the dying process was hard. But I know this was your last lesson to teach. You will always be in my heart. Until we meet again. 9/29/25.



October 3 at 12:35 PM



Tribute Wall

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From Your Agdigital Family sent an A Full Life to the Turek family.



October 2 at 11:46 AM



With Deepest Sympathy, Desktop Team sent a Large Basket Garden to the Turek family.



October 2 at 11:29 AM



Shara Bohach shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



The world lost a great man yesterday. I lost the best Dad I ever could have had. Kind, caring, smart, funny, talented, creative, principled, honest, profound ... he will always be my role model. Married to my Mom for 58 years, they met at the ninth grade Valentine dance (on Friday the 13th - so 13 became their lucky number) and never looked back. Made for each other, two peas in a pod. My sisters and I are beyond lucky to have grown up in such a solid, loving home. Husband, father, grandfather, brother, musician, composer, author, professor, poet, activist, with passions for skiing, tennis, and travel, he really lived his life well and with meaning. This past year of bad health took its toll, but as he said "I had 79 good years, I was bound to have a bad one." Over the past weeks we have recounted so many memories, from all of the ski trips, to our favorite family photo in Hawaii where the photographer snapped the photo just as the parrot snapped down on my mom's arm and she screamed (she was startled but not injured - thus it became the funniest photo ever, with even funnier parts to the story that I won't tell here.) He embraced my Halloween birthdays and would get so into Halloween costuming and decor - a memorable Halloween had my dad in a pterodactyl costume with an enormous wingspan perched on the roof of our house. He even looked forward to our crazy Halloween parties later in life - to seeing all the creativity in the costumes and decor. So many memories. From trips, to family time, to all of our pets, to talking about books and movies, to dinners out, to going to his gigs to see him play solo and with friends at wineries and Music Box, I'll hold them in my heart forever. And I'll miss you forever Dad.

October 2 at 11:14 AM



Media

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Karlene Gandolf shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 3 at 12:35 PM





Shara Bohach shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 2 at 11:14 AM





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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ralph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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