

William J. Turney



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They lovingly nicknamed him "Wild Bill" at the Manor in Bryan, where he resided these last four months. The nickname struck his family a little odd. The more they thought about it, though, the more appropriate it seemed to be. William Turney, Bill to everyone he met, embraced life with such enthusiasm and strength, it's not surprising that name found him. The surprising part was that it evaded him for so many years!

Second child of Theodore and Florence Turney of Weldon, Bill grew up working the farm and ranch. He worked a lot of cattle between Weldon and Trinity, rode a few broncs and even sat a bull or two at the Huntsville Rodeo. His love for the land throbbled in his veins, as he remained faithful to the home place through out his life. He was the third generation on the Turney place: his grandfather, Ben Turney, bought it back in 1917.

He left home to serve in the US Army, as a Radio Operator in Korea. His experiences there held lasting impressions and molded sensitivity to human plight and compassion for suffering. When World War II came to a close, Bill returned to Weldon and enrolled at Sam Houston State Teacher's College.

After graduating from Sam Houston with a BS of Education, he went job prospecting in the Houston area. He found much more than a job, though. He met

his anchor in life, Wilma Jean Nelson (Sue) and they married in May of 1953. Shortly after, Bill hired on with Dow Chemical and he and Sue set up house in Angleton.

While raising four children, Bill and Sue commuted between Angleton and Weldon. The ranch/farm stayed active and productive, but not without an intense amount of sacrifice, energy and vision. From working cattle to dozing pasture and stock tanks, to raising gardens and seeing his parents through their challenges, as well as serving as Deacon and Elder for First Presbyterian Churches of Angleton and Crockett, Bill stood in solid commitment.

Bill finished his career as a Production Foreman after 34 years at Dow Chemical. Bill and Sue moved back up to the Turney place to build their dream home. They set up a saw mill, cut and milled their own lumber off the place, and built their home the way their vision guided them. Bill's

commitment to the land continued to grow through his participation with Houston County Landowners Association and Texas Forestry Association.

Bill is survived by three sons, Joe and Jim Turney of Angleton and Paul Turney of Bryan, and his daughter Susan Woolsey of Weldon. Bill is also survived by his six sisters: Bennie Hahn of Los Altos, CA, Genevieve Ratcliff of Ft Worth, Barbara Robbins of Bellevue, WA, Julia Lamance of Boyd, Tx, Ann Thomson of Los Altos, NM and Carrie Turney of Ft Worth. Bills was blessed with nine grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Crockett on Monday, March 3, 2008 at 2 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages the support of the Houston County Landowners Association Scholarship Fund, 703 Norman Lane, Crockett TX 75835; Hospice of Brazos Valley, 502 W. 26th St. Bryan, TX 77803; and the St Joseph Foundation, c/o St Joseph Manor, 2333 Manor Drive, Bryan TX 77802.

To quote an ex-Army buddy, "Dear Bill, It has been a long time since those wild days of fun, and I still have to tell you, your grip is second to none." Yes, Bill Turney had one heck of a grip: on life and family, on your heart, and on your hand.