



THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK MARYLAND

1 WEST POTOMAC STREET · BRUNSWICK, MARYLAND 21716 · (301) 834-7500

Distinguished Citizens biography for:

Bill Turney

1945-2024

Honored as a Distinguished Citizen in 2025

Bill Turney was born in Baltimore on June 18, 1945. His family moved near Lovettsville when he was 11 years old.

Cheryl Anderson Turney, his beloved wife of 58 years, said that Bill arrived in Brunswick through her prayers. His family “came over to the First Baptist Church (in Brunswick) that I attended. I looked at him and studied him for a couple of weeks and I knew there was something amazing about him. I fell in love with him when I was 11 years old. It took him a little while longer to notice me.”

Bill and Cheryl got married in 1966 during his senior year at the University of Richmond. He worked as a youth minister to help pay the couple’s rent. After graduation, Bill taught English at a high school in Culpepper, where his son Glenn was born in 1968 (his daughters Suzanne and Lori were born in Charlestown, WVA in 1971 and 1973, respectively). Bill and Cheryl have nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Legendary Brunswick High School coach Herb Daugherty advocated for Bill’s hiring at BHS prior to the 1969-70 school year. Bill then taught at Brunswick for 44 years, in addition to teaching night school and summer school in Frederick. By the time he and Cheryl, the longtime school secretary, retired in 2013, they had collectively worked at BHS for 77 years. At that point, Bill was the longest-tenured high school teacher in the Frederick County school system.

Students were drawn to Bill’s charismatic personality. In addition to teaching English, Bill was a work study coordinator and grew the program from a few students to upwards of 60 kids. He also acted as guidance counselor and senior class advisor for many years. He led the “Safe and Sane” program to help kids abstain from alcohol and established the Bible club, which became the most popular organization at BHS for many years, reaching a peak membership of about 120 students.

Bill had a special ability to connect with struggling students. He genuinely cared about them and did everything he could to ensure they attended classes regularly. He would personally call truant students and even drive to their homes to pick them up. Many graduated thanks to his efforts or those of Cheryl, who would also reach out to encourage them to get to class.



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Bill was also an inspirational coach with 16 years of experience coaching football, 11 years in basketball, and two years in track. Basketball was his favorite sport to coach. He served as an assistant coach to Bill Kubat for several years, including 1976-77 when BHS won its only state championship. In 1982, he served as varsity football coach. While doing all this, Bill was still able to earn two master's degrees.

Bill was always a man of faith, and he experienced a spiritual reawakening in the 1980s. For the rest of his life, he served when needed as associate pastor at First Baptist Church in Brunswick, Faith Baptist Church in Knoxville, and Valley Baptist Church in Jefferson. He also brought many people to Christ through his everyday actions. While continuing to teach at BHS, he worked as a traveling evangelist, leading revival meetings. He provided Christian counseling from his family's basement, known as Bill Turney and Associates, located at 205 E H Street in Brunswick. Many of his former students sought him out for marriage counseling, and he officiated their weddings.

In 1980, while Bill was chairman of the building committee for Faith Baptist Church, the construction team faced challenges trying to place the cross on the steeple. Always fearless, Bill volunteered to take on the task himself. There is an iconic photo of him suspended precariously from a crane while successfully installing the cross.

In character, Bill seized a bold and risky opportunity to preach the gospel in China during the early 2000s. He had to be hidden while being transported between the meeting location and his hotel. Later, he attempted to transport Bibles into the country, which led to his arrest and a fine. Undeterred, Bill successfully sent more Bibles back to China.

Bill performed many random acts of kindness, such as buying meals and finding shelter for homeless individuals he encountered. He distributed Bible tracts wherever he traveled, especially on family vacations to Ocean City, where he handed them out on the boardwalk. He even shared tracts with staff during his final hospital visit, where he passed away unexpectedly on May 14, 2024.

Bill's sudden passing came as a shock to everyone who knew him, especially since he had always maintained excellent health. He was an avid golfer, known for the "BT Bounce" where his shot would carom out of the woods back onto the fairway. And he was a regular at The Total Fitness gym in Lovettsville, which honored him by dedicating a memorial following his death.

Bill Turney was a humanitarian, Christian, family man, teacher, and above all, a protector. As a testament to his remarkable influence, Bill's viewing at Stauffer Funeral Home in Brunswick lasted over three hours, and people were still in line when it was time to close. His life's work touched countless lives.

The Mayor and Council and the Brunswick History Commission are proud to honor Bill Turney as a Distinguished Citizen of Brunswick, Maryland.