



Harry Bruce Turnbull

May 2, 1931 - November 22, 2025

Bruce Turnbull passed away, surrounded by his family on November 22, 2025, at the age of 94. He was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania to the late Robert F. Turnbull and Elizabeth G. (Campbell) Turnbull. Bruce's Family moved to Newark, New Jersey in 1940 where he lived for 19 years. He graduated in 1948 from Barringer High school, where he began his lifelong love of playing the trumpet in marching band, and Rutgers University Newark in 1952 with B.A. in Biology. He proudly served in the United States Army during the Korean War as a Radio Operator and bugler with Headquarters Co., 981st Field Artillery Battalion, 40th Infantry (Sunburst) Division. After the War ended, he was selected as a member of the Division Honor Guard, which returned the Division Colors to California in June 1954.

Bruce returned to New Jersey and became an active member of the Second Presbyterian Church of Newark where he met the love of his life, Barbara "Barbie" (Devonald) Turnbull. They married in 1959 and moved to Bloomfield New Jersey, where they lived and raised their four children. Bruce and his family joined the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church in 1966, where he served as Deacon, Elder, and sang in the Church choir, played in the Hand Bell Choir and played trumpet on holidays. He retired as the Director of the Church's Food Pantry in 2016. He also was active in the "Meals on Wheels" Program in Bloomfield between 1999 - 2006.

During his 42 year career, Bruce was employed by several New Jersey manufacturing companies in the field of quality assurance engineering & management. He retired from his last Employer, Kearfott Guidance and Navigation Corporation, a Division of Astronautics Corporation of America, in 1998. In 2017 Bruce and Barbie moved to Cedar Crest Village in Pompton Plains, New Jersey.

Bruce is predeceased by both his mother and father and his younger brother David C. Turnbull in 2009. He is survived by his wife Barbara of 66 years, their daughter, Susan, three sons, Bruce, Stuart and Peter and their wives, and five grandchildren Stephanie, Drew, Cory, and Jordan Turnbull and Abigail Brigman. Also surviving, his sister-in-law Jean Robinson, his nephews, David Turnbull, Jr. and Steven Erickson, niece Jill Erickson and numerous cousins.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green Capital Campaign Fund.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **25**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Van Tassel Funeral Home
337 Belleville Avenue
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
(973) 743-1234 or (973) 743-1761
<https://www.vantasselfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

NOV **26**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Van Tassel Funeral Home
337 Belleville Avenue
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
(973) 743-1234 or (973) 743-1761
<https://www.vantasselfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

DC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Don Cornell - November 25, 2025 at 10:09 AM

DC

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Don Cornell - November 25, 2025 at 08:32 AM

LC

“ *The six degrees of separation phenomenon continues merrily on its way. I met Mr. Turnbull after purchasing my home in Bloomfield; we were next-door neighbors for 24 years. Later, we found out that we both had obtained security clearances working for the Kearfott Corporation. I was employed by this defense contractor during the Reagan years, Mr. Turnbull during President Clinton.*

You can tell that the United States Army trained this soldier because his core belief was to never shy away from hard labor. He was still mowing his lawn, shoveling snow, and raking leaves in his mid-80s. When I looked out my kitchen window, I had to laugh seeing this 85-year-old man lowering his body to the ground to catch ground balls and throw them back to his wife in their backyard. Their 66-years love story was sweet to witness.

May Mrs. Turnbull be comforted knowing that her husband filled out his days on earth surrounded by the respect and love of his many friends and neighbors.

*My sincere condolences to his entire family.
Linda Cummings*

Linda Cummings - November 24, 2025 at 06:17 PM

DC

“ I first met Bruce during Advent season in 1981. He recruited me, a new member of BPCOG, to help him hang Christmas lights on the outdoor trees around the church. 35 years later he recruited me to take over as director of the church's food pantry. In between I sat and stood next to him in the bass section of our church choir. He was a wonderful mentor, singing partner, and friend.



Don Cornell - November 24, 2025 at 01:00 PM

JD

“ Jeffrey Davis purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Harry Bruce Turnbull.



Jeffrey Davis - November 24, 2025 at 10:29 AM

LY

“ What a wonderful life, well earned. Rob Lynott, nephew

lynott - November 23, 2025 at 09:45 PM

VF

“ May you Rest In Peace, and your place in Heaven



vuong family - November 23, 2025 at 09:26 PM

PA

A wonderful man with a beautiful wife and who inspired joy in the people who knew him and his family. Patty Whalen

pat - November 23, 2025 at 09:52 PM

VF

“ *Vuong Family purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Harry Bruce Turnbull.*



Vuong Family - November 23, 2025 at 09:18 PM

JR

“ I had the privilege of knowing Bruce through my cousins, Ethelyn and Janice Fulton, and their mother, Charlotte, when the Turnbells were neighbors to my aunt. I would also see them frequently at the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green that my aunt and cousins also attended.

I always looked forward to chatting with Bruce at church. He was somewhat reserved, but with an inner enthusiasm that you couldn't help but pick up on. Our conversations were usually brief, but I always walked away from them feeling uplifted. He had that gift of communicating genuine warmth and caring in even the most mundane of exchanges.

I will certainly miss him, and will count him among the blessings I am thankful for come Thursday.

My deepest sympathies to Barbara, Susan, and all the Turnbells, as well as to their BPCOG family.

*Peace be with you all,
John Reilly*

John Reilly - November 23, 2025 at 04:24 PM

VF

“ *Vuong Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Harry Bruce Turnbull.*



Vuong Family - November 23, 2025 at 02:56 PM



“ 15 files added to the tribute wall



Abi Brigz - November 23, 2025 at 02:10 PM