Editorial



A Tribute to Dr. Clifford H. Turen

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On behalf of Penn Orthopaedics, we would like to both acknowledge a great loss and honor the memory of Dr. Clifford H. Turen, who passed from our ranks on January 13th, 2013 at the age of 55. As an internationally renowned orthopaedic traumatologist, many of the faculty, staff, and friends of our community knew him well. His overwhelming professional and personal accomplishments will extend well beyond his years.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Roslyn, NY, Dr. Turen graduated from the Wheatley School in East Williston, NY, and attended college at Johns Hopkins University, graduating with the class of 1979. He earned his medical degree in 1983 from SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY, and completed his internship and residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park, NY. Dr. Turen subsequently completed his trauma fellowship at the R. Adams Crowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, MD in 1988.

Dr. Turen first became a member of the Penn orthopaedic family through our partnership with BayHealth Medical Center in Dover, DE, where he maintained his most recent practice. This position was preceded by a position as the Director and Chair of the Georgia Orthopaedic Trauma Institute in Macon, GA, and a 20-year career as the Chief of Orthopaedic Trauma Services and the Director of the Orthopaedic Traumatology Fellowship Program at Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Turen also served for 28 years as a Commander in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Navy Reserve, acting as a medical officer for the U.S. Navy Seals when on active duty. His 20 year membership in AO North America and the AO Trauma Foundation afforded him numerous opportunities to serve as faculty, chairman, and senior trustee. He participated as an educator, firefighter, fire officer, and dive team member for the Emergency Medical Services community with the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, the Washington DC Fire Department, and the Howard County, MD Fire and Rescue Department. His work as a former Special Deputy US Marshal further led to the establishment of the tactical EMS program for the National Capital Region Antiterrorism Task Force. Dr. Turen is survived by his wife Bethanne, sons Jonathan and Jason Turen, stepchildren Jessica Webster, Margaret Sutton (William), and Zach Webster, step-grandson Alex Webster, his mother Georgia Lo Prete, and his sister Anita Davidson (Robert Friedman).

With Dr. Turen's passing, we have lost a truly passionate educator, a dedicated and hard-working orthopaedic surgeon, and a great friend. His impact and his legacy live on through the countless orthopaedic trauma fellows and residents he has touched over the years with his commitment to the care of the injured. Dr. Turen will be greatly missed by all at Penn Orthopaedics and our thoughts are forever with his family.