



## Michael John Turnbull

August 24, 1939 - September 30, 2022

Michael “Mike” John Turnbull, 83, passed away on September 30, 2022, in Fort Collins, Colorado, his home of more than 50 years.

Born August 24, 1939, in Brooklyn, New York, the only child of William and Mildred Turnbull. He had an adventurous childhood, making for many great stories. The family moved to Wilmington, Delaware, where his father worked at Wilmington Trust. Mike attended Dupont High School and The University of Delaware, where he was the captain of the golf team and had a memorable match against Jack Nicklaus, losing by only 2 strokes.

He enlisted in the Airforce and went to officer’s candidate school in San Antonio, Texas. He was then stationed at William's Air Force base, near Phoenix, where he met Barbara, who he courted and married three months later. He attended personnel officer training and was then stationed in Misawa, Japan Air Force Base for three years. He travelled around Asia competing in golfing and sharpshooting tournaments representing the Air Force.

After being honorably discharged, he went to work for the US Census Bureau in Golden, Colorado. Yearning to learn more about the natural world, he enrolled in Fishery Biology at Colorado State University where he and his wife settled in what was then small-town Fort Collins, Colorado. Graduating with

honors he began working for the US Fish and Wildlife Service but decided he preferred fishing as a hobby rather than a career. He began working for the City of Fort Collins at the Water treatment plant, where he was able to bring his knowledge of water safety and health and worked for almost 30 years, until retiring in 2001.

He enjoyed many outdoor activities including golfing, fishing, hunting, and skiing. He was a loving father, raising his two daughters, Maureen and Katie, with his wife. Mike provided a constant stream of creative stories, goofy faces, pranks, and was a source of endless facts for trivia games, crossword puzzles, and school projects. He never met a museum placard he wouldn't read in full, a word whose complete origins he didn't know, or a sweet he wouldn't devour down to the last crumb. His creative mind was constantly inventing solutions to problems he encountered in his daily life. Mike had amazing ability to fix anything with a tube of shoe glue and a roll of duct tape. He knew how to make the ordinary feel extraordinary. He will be dearly missed by his wife Barbara, daughters Maureen and Katie (Kathleen), grandson William Benito and granddaughter on the way.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the charity of your choice as he cared for people, animals, and causes around the world.

# Previous Events

## Service of Remembrance

OCT 5. 3:00 PM (MT)

Goes Funeral Care & Crematory

3665 Canal Drive

Suite E

Fort Collins, CO 80524

(970) 482-2221

[info@goesfuneralcare.com](mailto:info@goesfuneralcare.com)

<https://www.goesfuneralcare.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Michael John Turnbull*

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October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Dear Barb, Maureen, and Katie, I am very sorry to hear of Mike's passing. May the happy memories you shared as a family bring you comfort at this time. Love, Ginny and Rod Conahan*

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**Ginny Conahan** - October 09, 2022 at 11:47 AM



“ *Barb and family,  
I'm sorry to hear of your loss of Mike. I know he was on a difficult journey these last few years. Barb, we shared about our husbands and their needs.*

*Sadly, I lost Bill in May. So I understand your feeling of loss.*

*I remember having Maureen and Katie in my class at Bennett Elementary.*

*My heart aches for all of you and your family. May you all help each other through this sad time.*

*Janie Arnold*

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**Janie Arnold** - October 07, 2022 at 04:03 PM

JG

“ *Oh Barbara, I am so sorry for your loss.*

*We will always be grateful and thankful for our paths crossing and introducing our boys to their first aquarium experience that we enjoyed for years.*

*May you find strength and comfort in the Lord.*

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**Jacque Guerrero** - October 04, 2022 at 01:55 PM

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“ *Barb, Maureen, Katie and family, So sorry for your loss. May caring thoughts comfort you at this time of sorrow.*

*Carol Fulkrod*



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**Carol L Fulkrod** - October 04, 2022 at 01:34 PM