



Victor R. Despard, III

September 21, 2024

Victor “Turk” R. Despard, III, 83, of Lancaster, passed away on Saturday, September 21, 2024, surrounded by his family at Mennonite Home. Born in Lancaster, PA, he was the son of the late Victor R., Jr. and Helen Louise (Eshleman) Despard. Turk was the loving husband to Barbara Brubaker Despard for 58 years of marriage until her passing in 2023.

Turk was a graduate of J.P. McCaskey High School; he received his B.A. in History from William and Mary College and his M.A. in Pastoral Counseling and Psychology at Loyola University in Baltimore. Turk was an Air Borne Ranger (Fort Bragg and Fort Gorden) as an officer in the United States Army.

Turk’s professional career was well-rounded. He first worked for Univac before spending 22 years as the Founder of Kaadan Ltd, which enabled him to travel frequently. He served on the Board of Directors of National Houseware Manufacturer’s Association. Turk founded the Therapy Company to be a counselor and to provide services specializing in addiction, interventions and PTSD. He was blessed to have encountered so many interesting and incredible souls.

Turk was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church where he volunteered and sang in the choir. He felt privileged to have played golf at Pine Valley and the Lancaster County Country Club (LCC) and devoted many weekends with his

brothers-in-law and friends perfecting his skill. He was also a weekend farmer, raising sheep right off the 4th golf hole at LCC.

Family was Turk's greatest joy. He is survived by his son, Victor "Boyd" Despard (Megan O'Brien Despard), his two daughters, Elizabeth Louise Despard Guida (Steve Caldwell), and Mary Allison Despard (David Ratner), eight grandchildren: Lindsey Nicole Guida, Natalie Meredith Guida, Kai Despard Ratner, Keegan Despard Ratner, McCaffery "Mack" O'Brien Despard (Rossana Elizabeth Despard), Bridget Kerwick Despard, Joseph "Jeb" Boyd Despard, and Hill Patrick Despard. He is also survived by his brother Thomas Eshelman Despard. In addition to his wife Barbara, Turk was preceded in death by his brother William Roy Despard.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Turk's Mass of Christian Burial at Historic St. Mary's Catholic Church, 119 S. Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 2 pm with Father Olkowski officiating. The family will receive friends from 1 pm until the time of service. A private family interment will take place immediately following the service in the family plot at Lititz Moravian Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial contribution in Turk's name to Pecos Benedictine Monastery, Pecos, New Mexico where Turk often participated in spiritual retreats.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **28.** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Historic St. Mary's Catholic Church
119 South Prince Street
Lancaster, PA

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **28.** 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Historic St. Mary's Catholic Church
119 South Prince Street
Lancaster, PA

Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Victor R. Despard, III*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - September 27, 2024 at 08:52 PM



Victoria Kosko

I have just found out about Turk's passing and am feeling very sad. I only knew him and Barb for a few short years in the previous decade, but they provided me with such lovely friendship and good memories. The world has now lost two more kind souls.

Victoria Kosko - March 02, 2025 at 12:49 PM

SP

“ *Fraternity brother and roommate at William & Mary for two years, a wonderful friend and companion; we didn't compete much; he was star swimmer, super sprinter and laughed most of the time; I played tennis so we could brag a lot to each other. And, I listened to him croon as he fell in love with the love of his life.*

Stephen Dwight Parker - February 04, 2025 at 12:38 PM

BP

“ *Enjoyed all interactions with Turk over the years - he was always a gentleman and grateful he was the dad of my very dear friend Allison. May Turk's spirit live on in all his children and grand children. BJ PARKER*

BJ PARKER - September 29, 2024 at 08:52 PM

AC

“ Liz, Allison and Boyd — Fourth of July parties at your house were a highlight of the summer. We loved your parents. We think fondly of you all whenever we pass by the old house. We are thinking of you and sending our love. Gordon, Andy, Rob and Ann.

Andy Cross - September 28, 2024 at 09:28 AM

LK

“ Love the Cross kids purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Victor R. Despard, III.



Love the Cross kids - September 28, 2024 at 09:23 AM



“ 270 files added to the album LifeTributes



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - September 27, 2024 at 02:45 PM



“ 87 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc - September 26, 2024 at 04:58 PM

CP

“ *We loved having Turk in class at Rise Fitness. :-)
He walked into the classroom with his infectious smile, a sparkle in his eyes and a great sense of humor. Turk loved lifting weights and being in the gym. RIP
May your memories of Turk bring you peace.*

Cassandra, Cathleen and Kelley.

cassandra parker - September 26, 2024 at 03:31 PM

MS

“ *We loved doing things with Turk. Bill and I had such fun and laughs with him as we fought back on our Parkinson's Journey. The Angels are fortunate to have him dancing and singing with them and Barb in heaven. God Bless his family during this difficult time. One of the Best!*

Marge Fleming Smith - September 26, 2024 at 03:26 PM

CN

“ Catherine N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Victor R. Despard.

Catherine N. - September 25, 2024 at 11:03 PM

NP

“ Vale Turk. You were such an inspiring light for so many of us. Condolences to your loving family



Nirmalo and Paul - September 25, 2024 at 05:02 PM

VS

“ Vanessa & Serenity Sisters purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Victor R. Despard, III.



Vanessa & Serenity Sisters - September 25, 2024 at 02:44 AM

VS

“ Vanessa & Serenity Sisters planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Victor R. Despard.

Vanessa & Serenity Sisters - September 25, 2024 at 02:44 AM

TB

“ 1 file added to the album *Turk at the Delaware Races*



Tim Bamforth - September 24, 2024 at 06:55 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of **Victor R. Despard, III**.



September 24, 2024 at 02:37 AM

YC

“ *Your fellows from Singapore East Coast* purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of **Victor R. Despard, III**.



Your fellows from Singapore East Coast - September 24, 2024 at 12:12 AM

MA

“ *Turk and Barb had an amazing daughter that became one of my dearest friends. And I am forever grateful for that. Rest in peace. Love to the Despard family.*

Marija - September 23, 2024 at 11:11 PM

MM

“ *Marija M. planted a grove of 10 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Victor R. Despard.*

Marija M. - September 23, 2024 at 11:06 PM

FM

“ *From Zoe Zhang & Vicky Ma purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Victor R. Despard, III.*



From Zoe Zhang & Vicky Ma - September 23, 2024 at 09:33 PM

FM

“ *From Zoe Zhang & Vicky Ma planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Victor R. Despard.*

From Zoe Zhang & Vicky Ma - September 23, 2024 at 09:33 PM

MR

“ *I spent 15 years with Turk at Kaadan. He was a pleasure to work for, but even more of a pleasure to call him my friend. If you treated him right, he treated you even better - that's the kind of man he was. His strong beliefs and convictions served him well throughout his life.*

Marx Rehder - September 23, 2024 at 09:30 PM

JL

“ Over 40 years ago Turk walked with me as I entered into the beginnings of my recovery. It was critical to have someone who understood the desperation of addiction and he was there. Such an important person in my life’s journey.

Joe Larkin - September 23, 2024 at 06:26 PM

MG

“ Marie Grube lit a candle in memory of Victor R. Despard, III



Marie Grube - September 23, 2024 at 04:46 PM

DB

“ Douglas Brennan lit a candle in memory of Victor R. Despard, III



Douglas Brennan - September 23, 2024 at 08:43 AM

DH

“ He was a fantastic boss at Kaadan. I was a temp in his offices while attending business college. He became somewhat of a mentor to me .

Dianne Hackman - September 23, 2024 at 08:22 AM