



## Dr. Maurice R. Turcotte

May 23, 1925 - June 3, 2020

Maurice (Ray) Raymond Turcotte died very peacefully at his home at Saint George Village in Roswell, GA. He was born in Willimantic, CT, on May 23, 1925, to Anne Justine (McManus) and Samuel Joseph Turcotte, M.D. Being born on the cusp of the Greatest Generation and the Silent Generation, he was raised during the Depression and learned well the values of both frugality and great generosity, which he demonstrated all his life.

At a young age he and his mother moved to Lincoln, RI, to live with his mother's sister Alice and her husband Edward Burns. He would remain in this tight family unit for the remainder of his formative years. Life during the Depression was lean, but his uncle always had a job. Ray saw work as an opportunity rather than a burden and worked on a bread delivery truck in late grade school through high school. He was admitted to St. Raphael Academy in Pawtucket after presenting himself at the front door and asking the brothers if he could go to school there. After high school he attended Providence College for one year before dropping out and getting a job in the local textile mill. He often said that the mill experience, where workers rarely had ten fingers and often had difficulty breathing, was a prime motivator for the rest of his academic career. He returned to Providence College and graduated with a Biology degree in 1946. During this time, he also played semi-pro football. This was the era of leather helmets and the sideways snap. He weighed a mere 125lbs but he had sure hands, so he played center, although he earned the nickname "Tanglefoot Turcotte".

Promising PC science students often attended Thomas Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia and Ray followed this path, graduating in 1950. Upon completing his residencies in Maryland and Connecticut, he briefly opened an office in General Practice. He was fond of pointing out that he charged \$2 for an office visit and \$3 for a home visit, including any drugs and injections. He enjoyed the GP role, but his true love was anesthesiology, so he returned to Hartford, Connecticut and completed his two-year residency at St Francis Hospital and the US Army, where he was stationed in Germany.

He practiced anesthesia at St. Francis until 1967 and then relocated to South Fulton

Hospital in Atlanta, GA. In 1977, he served as President of the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists. After a brief attempt at retirement he volunteered at the Atlanta VA Medical Center and shortly thereafter was promoted to Assistant Professor at Emory University School of Medicine. He is fondly remembered by many Emory graduates from their time spent in the anesthesia rotation at the VA.

Ray was kind soul, with a quick smile, sparkling eyes and a warm “How are ya, sweetheart?” in his thick Rhode Island accent. As a high schooler during WWII, he and other teens manned the volunteer fire department. As an adult, he joined a team of Emory Hospital specialists volunteering with Doctors Without Borders on trips to the surgical hospital in Milot, Haiti. He loved trout fishing with his boys. He was a lifelong PC Friars basketball fan. He loved the poetry of e.e.cummings. When deployed overseas, he took a single medical textbook and a poetry anthology. He loved the beach at Narragansett. He led a life of giving and was known for his bedside manner. In private practice, he would clear his books at Christmas by sending a paid-in-full notice and a card to patients with outstanding bills. And he would be embarrassed by the mention of any of the above.

Ray is predeceased by his first wife and mother of his nine children, Joan Helene (Torak), his second wife Cecilia Rosana (Blance), his brother Legrand Samuel, his son Joseph Samuel M.D., his son Stephen George, and his great-granddaughter Jennifer. He is survived by his children Maurice (Jeannette), Anne, John (Sandra), Suzanne (Fred Colson), Mary (Monty) Brown, Margaret (Brad) Bartlett, and Catherine (John) Amarante, 27 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

These times dictate that the funeral mass will be private, as will his interment at the Georgia National Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Providence College, Doctors Without Borders, or the Saint George Village Care Partner Appreciation Fund, whose staff he held in highest regard.

# Cemetery

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## **Georgia National Cemetery**

1080 Scott Hudgens Dr

Canton, GA, 30114

# Comments

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“ Dr. Ray was a wonderful family friend for so many years. Back in East Point, through Blessed Sacrament, St. Joseph's, St. Pius, our families have been intertwined for such a long time. He and my parents were very close at St. George, and I always looked for him when visiting my parents. Whenever Dad was sick, Dr. Ray was a support for my mother.

Especially, as he was only 5 days older than Mom. Blessings to all Turcotte children! I will remember his last hug when I saw him weeks before the isolation.

Mary Beth "Reilman" Last

Mary Last - June 19 at 02:40 PM

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“ I'll never forget Dr. Turcotte. I was a 17 year old kid back in '73 when I started working with him as a scrub tech in the OR at South Fulton. His obit says he started at SFH in 77, but I could swear he was there is 73 when I started. When you spend hours upon hours trapped with people at an operating table in a small room, sometimes under very tense circumstances, you really get to know them like nobody else does. He was an energetic character and an extremely patient oriented anesthesiologist. He had a great sense of humor and a nervous energy that always kept the OR entertained and on its toes. He was always extremely respectful of the nursing staff and treated everybody like they were somebody. A real gentleman. He and Dr. William "Wild Bill" Burns were the life of the party when it came time to party but were always the consummate medical professionals when patients lives were at stake. What a guy! I only wish we could all be there to say good bye.

Tim Cash - June 06 at 08:24 AM



“ Thank you for the kind words...and you are correct. We moved to East Point in 1968 I believe. Dad & Dr. Byrnes are back together again!

Margaret Turcotte Bartlett - June 06 at 03:35 PM



“ October, 1967.

John Turcotte - June 06 at 06:44 PM

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“ We looked forward to seeing Dr. Turcotte every July 4th at his son, John's cookout. He was a nice man. We have met most of his lovely family. He and Dr. Byrnes will be having a good time in heaven.

He lived a good life. Our sincere sympathy,  
Jerry, Kitty and Ross Heyrman

Kitty Heyrman - June 05 at 05:30 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of Dr. Turcotte's passing. I worked with him in the OR at South Fulton. He was always so considerate and kind to everyone. He always had a smile that was maybe just a little mischievous. Just a pleasure to work with.  
Jenny Bell-Harwood

**Jenny** - June 05 at 02:43 PM



“ Thank you so much for the kind words. He loved his South Fulton family & had great memories.

**Margaret Turcotte Bartlett** - June 06 at 09:42 PM



“ I have often told the story when I got my wisdom teeth removed, Dr. Turcotte was my anesthesiologist. As he was putting me under he said, "You are about to experience the miracle of modern medicine: me!:

My condolences to the whole family.

**Charlie Clauss** - June 05 at 10:29 AM



“ Thank you, Charlie! Wonderful story!

**Margaret Turcotte Bartlett** - June 06 at 03:45 PM



“ I was fortunate to work in the best OR with the best group of anesthesiologists at SFMC. Dr. Turcotte always had a smile and a sparkle in his eyes. It was a joy to assist in his room and he always made your day better. He will be greatly missed and I send prayers to all of his family. To know him was to love him.

**Sue Chambers, RN** - June 04 at 11:03 PM



“ Thank you so much! He had great memories of South Fulton.

**Margaret Turcotte Bartlett** - June 06 at 09:47 PM



“ Dear Turcotte Family....I am so saddened to learn of the passing of your Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather. I had the honor and privilege of working with Dr. Turcotte for many years at South Fulton Medical Center. Dr. Turcotte was always a pleasure to work with, always kind, and he was a great anesthesiologist. I fondly remember that gleam in his eye! He was one of my favorites! My sincere

condolences. May He Rest in Peace.  
Joyce Parrott, RN

**Joyce Parrott** - June 04 at 08:56 PM



“ Priscila Schulz RN

Ohhh!! Dr. Turcotte....so sad that seeing you in this photo after all these years..you're gone!! Rest in eternal peace with Our Lord! ...I will always remember you with fondness, funny memories !! Deepest condolences to the Turcotte Family !

**Priscila Schulz** - June 04 at 10:50 PM



“ Dear Family of a great doctor, a great person and great mentor. Dr. T had a great sense of humor and he loved giving Dr. Burns grief. I loved hearing him laugh with Dr. Bill Burns.

Those two always support us nurses and cared for all. He made sure we got to have a break during long hours of call in the OR. I worked with him for over 24 years and I always loved being assigned In his room. We had fun and he made bad situations more manageable. Dr. T is your guardian angel! I am sadden for your loss. He loved his family and spoke of you daily. God bless the Turcotte family.

He is resting in peace.

Pat Thornton, Perioperative Nurse

**Pat Thornton, RN** - June 04 at 10:55 PM



“ Thank you all for the kind words! I'm sure he & Dr. Byrnes are together again.

**Margaret Turcotte Bartlett** - June 06 at 09:46 PM



“ Pink Lily and Yellow Rose Mix (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of Dr. Maurice R. Turcotte.



June 04 at 07:03 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Maurice R. Turcotte.



June 04 at 06:20 PM