



## Andrew Turak

December 8, 1981 - May 28, 2023

ANDREW TURAK, 41

December 8, 1981 - May 28, 2023

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

After a long, hard-fought battle with metastatic pancreatic cancer, Andrew unfortunately succumbed to the...

Actually, no. We're not doing that kind of obituary. Andrew did not lose his battle with cancer. When he died, the cancer died too, so that's not a loss, it's a draw.

Andrew Turak, who you may have known better as Drew, Uncle Dude, or MC Scumbag, lived his entire life in Lawrenceville in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. If you knew Andrew, he was probably your favorite - favorite friend, favorite sibling, favorite cousin, or favorite person to have a conversation with, whether it be a philosophical discussion or debating the best way to eat a hot dog.

It is an impossible task to encompass a person who was so many different things to so many people. Andrew grew up surrounded mostly by women, starting with his mom and sisters, and continuing with a high niece-to-nephew ratio. Over the years, he gained brothers-in-law and nephews to finally offset

the balance. Throughout the course of weekly hangouts with Zach Dean, his newest brother-in-law, a bromance developed, and Andrew truly considered Zach his brother. Andrew's wife, Mel, came into his life and was nothing but an asset to him, without ever expecting Andrew to change who he was.

Throughout their entire relationship, but especially over the last two years, Mel was an advocate for Andrew and cared for him tirelessly. He loved Mel more than anyone even knew he was capable. Andrew and his dad watched a sporting event together just about every day, from Pitt basketball to Steelers football to boxing matches. He was a talented self-taught keyboardist and vocalist, as evidenced in hits such as "Stroller Ass," or in collaborations with his forever music partner Marty McElroy. He watched Jeopardy! most nights, frequently sharing multiple blind guesses for Final, even though having more than one guess is technically cheating. Andrew was the life of the party, known as the guy who would go to school dances with anyone who needed a date, including his little sister who took him to her own prom. Any excuse to show off his amazing dance moves was worth it. Over the years, Andrew turned his friends and family onto tons of comedians, providing insight into his impeccable sense of humor. Wine connoisseur, basketball player, the funniest guy you've ever met, pool shark, lively debater, dog-dad, comfort king, poet - these are some of the words that are evoked at the thought of Andrew, still only scratching the surface.

Andrew is survived by his incredible wife Melanie Dean, parents Andrew J. and Mary Turak, sisters Nicole (Donnie) Freyer, Jessica (Dominick) Peluso, Allison (Steven) Ladavat, abundant nieces and nephews Julia, Ava, Isaiah, Isabel, Abe, Giana, Claire, Violet, Stella, Hazel, Dexter, Parents-in-law Jack (Renee) Dean, Marlene Dean, Brother-in-law Zach (Rachel) Dean, plenty of aunts, uncles, and cousins, and of course, his sweet dog Chloe.

Andrew truly and deeply loved life and ensured that he was making the most of it until the very end. He was not ready for his life to end, and we are not

ready to say goodbye to our favorite, but we are grateful for the time that we shared with him.

Funeral Services will be held at D'Alessandro Funeral Home & Crematory Ltd.  
4522 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

James K. Murray, Funeral Director

Viewing Schedule:

Tuesday, May 30 4pm until 8pm

Wednesday, May 31 2pm until time of service at 7pm

Burial will be private

Please wear casual attire. Dress for comfort - it's what Andrew would've worn to your funeral.

U wanna be my friend

We can hangout then

Just for a day

We can hang and play

Like the setting sun

Their first and last one

I'll remember you

And I hope you do too

- Andrew Turak

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 30. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.  
4522 Butler St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

## Visitation

MAY 31. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.  
4522 Butler St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

## Memorial Service

MAY 31. 7:00 PM (ET)

D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.  
4522 Butler St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

# Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Andrew Turak.

June 10, 2023 at 12:14 PM



“ From John O'Donnell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew Turak.

From John O'Donnell - May 31, 2023 at 05:14 PM



“ John Crow planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew Turak.

John Crow - May 31, 2023 at 09:44 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.



May 31, 2023 at 09:02 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.



May 30, 2023 at 09:49 PM

ET

“ I only knew Drew from Twitter but I still loved him and am gutted to hear of his passing. There are many of us in our community who feel this way. Those of you who knew him in person were very lucky. He was incredibly special.

Eileen Tepper - May 30, 2023 at 09:32 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.



May 30, 2023 at 07:52 PM

DD

“ I am sad to hear about Drew's passing, but I know he fought to be fully alive each day. R.I.P., brother. See you on the other side. Dave DeSimone

Dave DeSimone - May 30, 2023 at 07:35 PM

SA

He sure did. He lived.

Sandra - May 30, 2023 at 08:29 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.



May 30, 2023 at 06:18 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.*



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May 30, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Andrew Turak.

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May 30, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ *Andy, Mary and Family,*

*Sending My Love to you all.*

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**Great Aunt Laura Turak** - May 30, 2023 at 04:37 PM

DF

“ To My Cousins.

*My girls and I send our Love and Prayers to you all. I, Debbie, will always remember the time I spent with Drew at Desirae and Vince's wedding. I met my cousins new wife. Oh how happy they were. Watching Drew play the keyboards was amazing. Self-taught. We talked by the fire most of the night. Oh the stories. We talked about the Turak Family history, Drew's stories. He was so interesting to talk to. I never knew my hug goodnight would be my last. I have had Drew in my prayers, and thought about him often. I hope all my cards made him smile to know he was thought of often. Andy and Mary you raised an extraordinary young man. I always looked up to you two on how well your children all turned out. Rest in Peace Drew and Play on.....*

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**Debbie Turak-Terry and Family** - May 30, 2023 at 04:34 PM

LP

*Mel,  
I met Drew thru you and immediately felt I knew him for years. He was my partner through so many trivia games. I will miss our sports talks and lasagna dinners. Mel, thank you for bringing Drew into our lives. He was truly special and I will miss him.*

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**Lisa Peluso** - May 30, 2023 at 07:03 PM

SL

“ Svitlana Lahish planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew Turak.

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**Svitlana Lahish** - May 30, 2023 at 01:47 PM

JM

“ Jennifer Marin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew Turak.

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**Jennifer Marin** - May 30, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.*



May 30, 2023 at 10:04 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.*



May 30, 2023 at 08:37 AM



“ *With deepest sympathy,  
Donna Occhipinti*

**Donna Occhipinti** - May 30, 2023 at 08:28 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.*



May 30, 2023 at 07:42 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.*



May 30, 2023 at 05:35 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Andrew Turak.

May 30, 2023 at 05:35 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.*



May 30, 2023 at 01:15 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Andrew Turak.

May 30, 2023 at 01:15 AM



“ *So Sorry to hear of the passing of Drew. We are thinking of you during this difficult time. Our prayers are with him and you.*

*Ron and Kathy Turak*

**Ron Turak** - May 29, 2023 at 11:48 PM

JC

“ I had the honor of working with Drew at the flagship Fine Wine & Good Spirits store in East Liberty over the past 2 1/2 yrs and thoroughly enjoyed our conversations on basketball, sports, a broad spectrum of other topics, amazing food and especially fine wine. Drew was an amazing light, highly intelligent and with all his experiences and wealth of knowledge --- to me I'll always know Drew to be, the 'Renaissance Man'. Massively and forever grateful for the time that I shared with him.

*John Crow*

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**John Crow** - May 29, 2023 at 11:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Andrew Turak.

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May 29, 2023 at 10:35 PM

JR

“ Janet Montgomery Michael Dennis & Rachel purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Andrew Turak.



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**Janet Montgomery Michael Dennis & Rachel** - May 29, 2023 at 10:29 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.



May 29, 2023 at 10:28 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Andrew Turak.

May 29, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Andrew Turak.

May 29, 2023 at 08:09 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.



May 29, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.



May 29, 2023 at 06:12 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Andrew Turak.

May 29, 2023 at 05:59 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Andrew's family. I worked with him as a Wine Specialist. He had such an amazing sense of humor and wit. He was so smart. He will truly be missed.

**Terri Metzger** - May 29, 2023 at 05:51 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.



May 29, 2023 at 04:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Andrew Turak.

May 29, 2023 at 04:53 PM



“ The Watters Clan purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Andrew Turak.



**The Watters Clan** - May 29, 2023 at 04:28 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.*



May 29, 2023 at 04:16 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.*



May 29, 2023 at 04:10 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.*



May 29, 2023 at 04:01 PM



“ *I will miss his optimism and outlook on every single thing thrown his way. It inspired me daily. I will miss all his funny videos and fb/TikTok post that would have me in tears laughing. You could just open Facebook and see how many people Drew inspired and touched. It's absolutely amazing! Not many people could be so impactful. I will truly miss him. Love you cuz💜*

**Lindsay Groves** - May 29, 2023 at 03:43 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.*



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May 29, 2023 at 03:43 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Andrew Turak.*



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May 29, 2023 at 03:38 PM