



March 18, 2005

To the Family of Dr. Samuel Turner:

On behalf of the American Psychological Association (APA), and its 150,000 members, I wish to express our sincere condolences to the Turner family. APA is the largest organization of psychologists in the world, and Dr. Turner was one of our most visible, dedicated and visionary leaders, and his influence was felt throughout the Association and profession.

Despite being an extraordinarily busy scholar, scientist, educator, clinician, mentor, and grant reviewer, Sam always made time to serve his primary professional organization, and the field benefited because of it. Very few components of our vast organization were untouched by Sam's participation. Here are just a few examples:

- Sam served a term on the APA Council of Representatives, the highest governing body of the Association, which sets policies for all of APA;
- He served on the APA Board of Scientific Affairs, which provides oversight to our work advancing psychological science;
- He served on the APA Board of Education Affairs, which promotes education in psychology, and promotes the role of psychology in the field of education;
- He was on the College of Professional Psychology, part of the APA Practice Organization, that works to advance the professional practice of psychology, and he co-chaired the Test User Qualification Task Force for the Practice Directorate;
- Sam also served a term on the APA Minority Fellowship Program's Advisory Committee within our Public Interest Directorate, and he established procedures still in place for

identifying the most promising minority graduate students who could contribute to psychological science and practice.

In other words, Sam contributed his time and expertise to the highest policymaking level of the Association, and to all four of the key wings of APA: Science, Practice, Education, and Public Interest. Sam also helped me directly. When I became APA CEO in 2003, I asked Sam---no, I begged Sam---to work with me as Associate Editor-in-Chief of the *American Psychologist*, the flagship scientific and policy journal of the Association. Despite being completely swamped with other duties, Sam agreed to take on this additional responsibility. Although I had known Sam for many years as a friend and dinner companion at the APA conventions, this was the first opportunity I had to work directly with him. Our weekly meetings gave me a front row seat to his keen intellect, his broad and deep knowledge of all of psychology, his incisive observations, and his logical decision making abilities. I have missed these meetings greatly.

In conclusion, I think the best thing I can say about Sam is that he had an overwhelmingly positive effect on his many colleagues in psychology. One of those colleagues, Dr. Joseph Trimble, summed it up best in an email message upon learning of Sam's passing. It reads:

"Sam Turner is a loss for all of us who knew him and in some small way were affected by his presence and commitment to ethnic and racial topics and issues in psychology. Sam was a wonderful human being - full of spirit, vision, humor, wisdom, and intellect. He was dedicated to our profession and its possibilities. He didn't just look at stars, he reached for them and made sure others joined him in the quest and the venture. He had a quiet but confident manner that lit up the room when he walked in ---we all knew Sam was in our midst not because he drew attention to himself, but because he commanded and received respect by his gentle manner, and his way of cutting to the chase without offending anyone. I've learned a great deal being in his presence and discussing issue-after-issue, and he always had a way of offering up the most proactive solutions.

I will miss his physical gentle presence but yet I know he will always be with us. Indeed his accomplishments are affecting all of us in ways we may not realize.

In spirit,

--Dr. Joseph Trimble"

Thank you for the opportunity to express the love and appreciation the psychology community has for Dr. Sam Turner.

Sincerely yours,

Norman B. Anderson, Ph.D.  
APA Chief Executive Officer