

**The California
Shuffleboard Hall of Fame**

proudly inducts

A. Z. Turnbo



Presented at

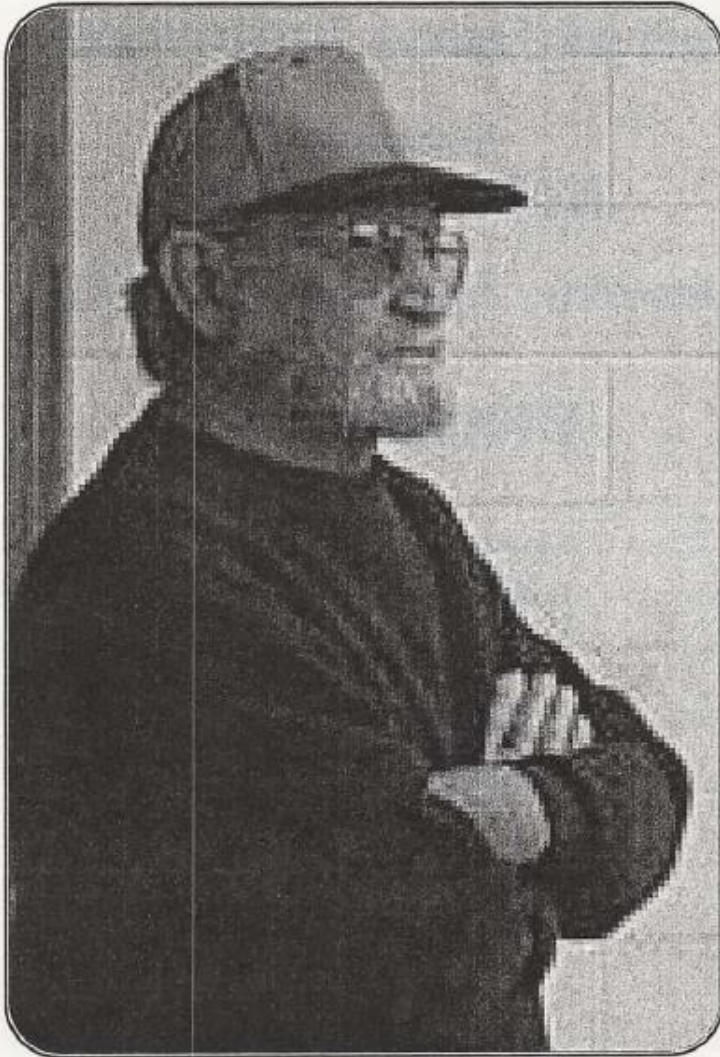
Blinky's Sports Bar

Santa Clara, California

February 17, 2001

CONGRATULATIONS

A. Z. TURNBO



**on your induction into the
California Shuffleboard
Hall of Fame**

A. Z. Turnbo

THIS IS YOUR LIFE

A.Z. Turnbo was born in 1928 in Oklahoma. His first experience in shuffleboard was in Tulsa, Oklahoma after he was discharged from the Navy in 1947. He moved to Wyoming to go to school and there he learned the trade of a construction electrician (union).

During the Korean War, he spent two additional years in the military where he saw shuffleboard play in Hawaii.

Upon leaving the military, he moved to Southern California in 1958 and later to Arkansas, then to Northern California in 1985.

He now resides in San Martin, CA where he is known as being dedicated to making the shuffleboard game better as both a player and providing and refinishing high quality shuffleboards. He has been instrumental in helping to revolutionize the game throughout the years.

In the mid-1950's, A.Z.'s first tournament was through a league in Wichita, Kansas. After moving to California, A.Z. became a well known session player in the 1960's mostly in Southern California, playing at The Barn in Costa Mesa. He eventually became a well-

known session player throughout California and played with or against the top players of the time including Billy Mays, Glen Davidson, Bill Jennings, Billy Chiles, Mickey Gomes, Hal Perry, Don Cox, Porter White, Bob Miles, Karl Spickelmeier, Kid Spooks, Glasses Jack, Ron Harralson, Bob Perry and Pee Wee Ramos.

A.Z. has played and placed in tournaments throughout California including the California State Championship (Second Place Singles) in Visalia, CA, and at the Happy Hour in San Jose which drew the best players from around the country.

In the early 1970's at a Fourth of July tournament held at the Happy Hour he won both singles and doubles (with Glen Davidson). In the 1980's he participated in tournaments in Las Vegas, taking second place in two separate tournaments with Billy Chiles and Chuck Norris.

In the late 1970's he found that though there were many boards in the San Jose area, most were high centered and in terrible disrepair. He knew that if the game were to survive and continue to grow, there had to be playable boards. A.Z. had heard about a new synthetic top for shuffleboards while in Oklahoma visiting Bill Melton. Bill said he was going to "pour" a board and asked if A.Z. would

like to help.

That is when A.Z. first learned about the process and he decided to try it on his own. Someone asked if he could refinish a board to make it playable; he gave it a try. His first refinishing project was a board from The Courts in San Jose in the early 1980's.

Soon A.Z. was refinishing other boards and getting better at it each time. He got so good that by the late 1980's, he had gained a reputation throughout the country for turning out high quality shuffleboards.

As the game revived and more tournaments were being held, tournament directors were proud to say their boards were provided by A.Z., an assurance that the boards were of top quality, luring more players to their tournaments. Indeed at the large national tournaments in Reno and Las Vegas in the 80's and early 90's the best boards in the house were the A.Z. boards. He has also taught others his innovative craft, helping to keep the game alive and flourishing.

A.Z. has seen the game of shuffleboard progress and change throughout the years; changes in rules (keep/switch hammer), strategy and tactics, the development of new shots, and changes in equipment (weights and boards). He agrees that the evolution of the game has made

it better and he is proud to have had an influence in these changes.

A.Z. is always eager to teach newcomers about the game. He will help them with their shooting technique, discuss strategy, or just tell stories about the game past and present. He likes to educate players and help them develop and improve their game.

In short, A.Z. likes helping people fall in love with the game he loves and has been devoted to for over 40 years.

A.Z.'s Fans Speak Out

A special salute to A.Z. Turnbo, undoubtedly the best player in Orange County, California!

He's always a great player, a real sport, and a gentleman.

He has always been one who would help the young, and up and coming new players with a warm smile and friendly advice.

Congratulations to a great player, and a better friend for a lifetime. May the Lord bless you, A.Z.

—Troy Tolbert

Tributes to A.Z. from his Friends

A.Z., you have made a big difference in the game of shuffleboard as we know it today. Thanks for your continued support.

To a great player, teacher, and friend—congratulations, A.Z., on your induction to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame!

—*Jane Mourgos*

A.Z. Turnbo is a worthy addition to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

He has been a big part of shuffleboard for over 40 years. First as a session player who played many of the great players of the game, then helping to revolutionize the game by refinishing and providing boards throughout California.

Finally, as a great supporter and promoter of the game through his willingness to teach new players the game. Any discussion of shuffleboard with A.Z. always gets around to how the game has improved and is growing and how can we make it even better than it is.

A.Z. deserves to be in the California Hall of Fame because of the positive influence he has had on the game here and all across the country. His devotion to making the game better for all players makes him a Shuffleboard Hall of Famer.

—*Dan Mourgos*

More from A.Z.'s Friends . . .

I have known A.Z. Turnbo for over 30 years. I can't rightly remember how we connected, but the things I remember most about him (from the start) was that he was always a man of his word and shot square and honest.

I prooted a lot of big tournaments in those days and A.Z. was always there. He was a top singles player and could jump up cold and be at the top of his game the first frame, and would go on to win his share of the tournament.

After the action was over, A.Z. would get a bottle of brandy and stay a couple of days with me to unwind.

I used to think how strange he was, because he would have me take him over the ranch so he could look at the birds. Now for the last 20 years, I guess I'm a little strange because I like to watch the birds too.

Congratulations, A.Z. Shuffleboard has been a major part of your life and you deserve to be in the Hall of Fame.

Your old and good friend,
—*Bobby Goldsmith*

More from A.Z.'s friends . . .

I'm not sure when I first met A.Z. Turnbo--it seems like he's been around forever. I remember he was part of one of my earliest "Great Moments in Shuffleboard". He was half of the opposing team when Dave W. and I won our first tournament match. Dave and I had been playing about two years at the time and were too inexperienced to know any better, but there we were in Marysville paying our dues.

to say that A.Z. was colorful would be an understatement. I can remember the blinders he would put on his glasses so the action on the board next to him wouldn't distract him while he was shooting.

For many years in Reno, the boards of choice (the ones the pros wanted to play on were furnished and set-up by A.Z.

A.Z. had provided boards for many other tournaments as well. He has installed and set up shuffleboards, repaired scoreboards, and rented shuffleboards all over the place.

It has been a great pleasure knowing and sometimes working with A."Z. and I think the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame has gained an important member.

—Bob Brunskill

Congratulations from A.Z.'s Friends

A. Z., Congratulations on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. You're a credit to the game as a player, a promoter, and an expert in shuffleboards.

—*Jolene Lembke, President
California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame*

Congratulations, A.Z. on your induction! Two of the many reasons why you should be in the Hall of Fame are for your good shuffleboard playing, and for putting in such great shuffleboards for so many tournaments. I met A.Z. at "The Barn" in Costa Mesa in the late 50's. He had a partner named Chuck Coates. If you went in to play them, you had better be on top of your game because you were going to get all the action you could handle.

—*Al Stewart*

A.Z., congratulations on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. You are a credit to the game as a player and a promoter of shuffleboard and equipment.

—*Paul Weber*

You have long been an inspiration to up and coming players. I have enjoyed your friendship for the last 27 years. Congratulations, A.Z.

—*Karl Spickelmeier*

A.Z.'s Friends Speak Out

A.Z. Turnbo's induction to the California Hall of Fame is overdue. When they talk about a session player, they talk about Billy Mays. When they talk about a tournament player, they talk about Darrol Nelson. When they talk about shuffleboard tables, they say A.Z. boards are the very best. Like Billy Mays and Darrol Nelson, A.Z. is among the elite in shuffleboard. All three have revolutionized the game of shuffleboard in their own way.

When you play on an A.Z. board, you have to have, and be able to master all the shots in the game. Most other boards you only have to have 3 shots to play. I wish other tournament directors would use the knowledge that A.Z. has for setting up a board and make it a standard throughout the U.S. You'd then see shuffleboard games and matches using the player's best ability.

Congratulations, A.Z. It is an honor to know you as a friend and competitor. I know that I have played on the very best boards when I have played on an A.Z. finished board.

—Dave Keithahn

Congratulations, A.Z.! You certainly deserve the honor of being elected into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. You're a great shuffleboard player and promoter of the game.

—Steve Lloyd

More from A.Z.'s friends . . .

I haven't been around long enough to personally see all of A.Z.'s contributions to shuffleboard, but I've certainly heard enough stories to know he is very much deserving of the honor. Through the years I have played with and against A.Z., I have always found him to be a gentleman, a tough competitor, and a friend. I have been dealing with A.Z. in preparation of the upcoming Blinky's tournament (he is bringing in 2 boards), and have found him to be reliable and professional. Knowing A.Z. has been one of the many benefits of entering the world of shuffleboard.

Congratulations A.Z.

—*Eddie Brayman*

Everyone knows how much A.Z. has done for the game of shuffleboard. One day I asked A.Z., "How many years have you been playing the game, and was there ever a day that you hated the game?"

He looked at me like he thought I was nuts, and said, "Hell no! The only thing I ever hated was losing when I thought I should have won!" So, A.Z., this induction is well deserved. Thanks for loving the game.

—*Larry Newel*

A.Z. Turnbo has been instrumental in promoting and supplying boards for many California locations and tournaments. His induction into the California Hall of Fame is well deserved.

—*Rich "Bubba" Warren*