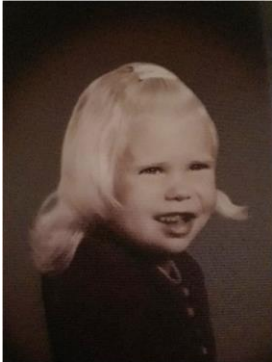


Terry Tankersley Memorial Scholarship



Upon returning to Memphis after 22 years of active duty service in the United States Air Force, Dr. Mike and Mrs. Jessie Tankersley established the Terry Tankersley Memorial Scholarship at the University of Memphis in honor of Mike's sister, Terry. The endowed scholarship supports students in the College of Education who are beginning their own journeys of service through a career in special education.

Terry Tankersley was born March 25, 1959 and was the oldest of three children. Although her mother had no complications during her pregnancy and delivery, Terry developed seizures at 3 months of age and began falling behind in her developmental milestones. After consultation with a developmental pediatrician at the age of 3 years, her developmental delays were confirmed. Terry was born with a moderate intellectual disability and had physical features that included hemihypertrophy (half of her body was mildly larger than the other). As a result of this, any new shoe purchase in her life always required two pairs of shoes as one foot was larger than the other. During Terry's childhood years, she benefited from special education services in Memphis and attended special education classes through the age of 21 years at Lenox Elementary, Scenic Hills Elementary and Avon Lenox School. As an adult, she participated in adult special education programs in Memphis at Martha's Manor through the Memphis Junior League and Friends of Faith.

Mike notes, "Growing up with an older sister with an intellectual disability had an incredible impact upon my own life. My decision to pursue a career in medicine was heavily influenced by my sister. Although Terry's intellect never developed beyond that of a seven year old, she had a phenomenal memory for names and loved to socialize with friends and family. She never met a stranger that she did not like and truly saw the world with eyes of innocence and love. Thus, it was only fitting after her death in 2009 that her corneas were donated for transplantation in an individual in need of sight. The cornea is the clear dome-like window covering the front of the eye that allows light to pass through to the retina enabling us to see. Her entire life was like this, as Terry was a blessing to all who met her, and we all saw life differently because of her sweet spirit."

The **Terry Tankersley Memorial Scholarship** is designated for outstanding junior and senior students who demonstrate their commitment to a lifetime of service through their exemplary academic performance (minimum GPA of 3.25) and volunteer work in their community. Those receiving the scholarship will be required to continue their volunteer work with 10 hours per semester with non-profit organizations whose mission is to assist those with learning disabilities.

Application and Support:

- If you are a current student and would like to apply for the Terry Tankersley Memorial Scholarship, please visit [Tiger Scholarship Manager](#).
- If you would like to support University of Memphis Special Education students through the Terry Tankersley Memorial Scholarship, please [click here](#) to go to the University's online giving form. You will be provided a list of funds and should choose the Terry Tankersley Memorial Scholarship Fund. You may also choose to give a gift in honor or memory of someone or provide special instructions from this fund.
- If you would like additional information about giving to the University of Memphis, please [click here](#).