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## **Hot Springs Veteran Wins \$500,000 On Lottery Scratch-Off Ticket**

Sept. 30, 2019

LITTLE ROCK – A Hot Springs man says he had to look at the winning numbers on his 200X Payout scratch-off ticket about six times before completely understanding he had won a half million dollar prize.

72-year old Stephen Turpen claimed the prize at the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Claim Center in Little Rock today.

He purchased the ticket Saturday while buying gas at the Valero/Corner Store located at 3371 N. Hwy. 7 in Hot Springs. At first, he said, he thought he had won \$500.

“Then I scratched off a comma and more zeros. I was elated. I was very happy. But I didn’t jump up and down or anything,” said Turpen, adding, “I’m just not that kind of guy. I walked back into the store and had the clerk scan the ticket. I signed it. Then I took it home and put it in the safe.”

Turpen is no stranger to that particular gas station. He says he and several of his other veteran friends have been having coffee together every morning at that Valero since the store was robbed six years ago.

“It was early one morning, and the older woman who worked there was scared to death,” Turpen said. “We’re just a group of local guys who have coffee together and try to keep the place a little safer.” Turpen added, “No one is gonna mess with a group of veterans.”

Turpen says he’s been a lottery player all his life, primarily playing in Florida when he lived there, but he’s never won an amount this big. He plans to pay off a little debt and put the rest in savings. But he says his life won’t change too much.

“I may buy a three-wheeler bike,” Turpen says with a wink. “but it’s up to momma,” he said, referencing his wife.

When asked if he plans to have coffee at the Valero tomorrow morning, Turpen said, “Oh yes, I was there this morning, too!”

### **About the 200X Payout Scratch-Off Ticket**

The 200X Payout game launched in March of this year. More than \$1.4 million in prizes still remain on the \$20 ticket.

### **About the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery**

More than 92 cents of every dollar of lottery revenue goes to prizes, scholarships, retailer commissions, and other expenses in Arkansas. Since 2009, the lottery has raised more than \$889 million in proceeds for scholarships. More than 542,000 college scholarships have been awarded to Arkansans. The lottery has paid more than \$2.9 billion in prizes to players, about \$257 million in retailer commissions and more than \$128 million in state and federal tax revenue.

Follow the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Visit [MyArkansasLottery.com](#) for more information on scholarships, winners, games, odds, promotions – and to join The Club for free. To hear winning numbers, call the Winning Numbers Hotline at 501-682-IWON (4966). To get help with problem gambling, contact the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700.

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