



James Richard Long

March 4, 1947 - November 22, 2019

Dr. James Richard Long, DMD, who passed away at the age of 72 with his loving wife at his side, was a follower of Jesus Christ, the father of seven children, and an orthodontist that loved his community.

Dr. Long was born in Buffalo, NY to the late Samuel Anthony Long and Bernice Victoria Long. During his adolescence, Dr. Long volunteered for the Ellicott Creek Fire Company with his father, and attended Sweet Home High School, where he was very popular but kept under watchful eye by his older sisters Sandra and Judy. After high school, Dr. Long attended the University of Louisville, where he was the president of his fraternity, Zeta Beta Tau. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from University of Louisville, Dr. Long drove a truck for Pfizer in Chicago before moving back to Kentucky for dental school. Dr. Long received his DMD from the University of Louisville and was named Alpha Omega Honor for outstanding scholastic achievement in Dentistry, graduating first in his class. He then graduated from Emory University in Orthodontics and Maxillo-Facial Orthopedics in 1976.

Dr. Long began his orthodontic practice working for Dr. Alan Goldman, where he mastered his craft. Dr. Long then went on to open his own practices in College Park, Thomaston, Douglasville, Hiram, and Fayetteville, Georgia. In 1996, Dr. Long opened his office in Newnan and in 2008, opened an additional office in Peachtree City. In 2015 Dr. Long sold his practice to Family

Orthodontics where he continued to practice in Peachtree City and Newnan until May of 2019.

In 1987, Dr. Long met his wife Lisa, whom he adored. After getting married, Lisa and Dr. Long moved to Fayetteville where they had six children together. Outside of his love for orthodontics, Dr. Long found purpose and meaning in raising his family. Dr. Long served as a coach on numerous sports teams that his children were a part of including but not limited to the Fayetteville Mariners, the Fayetteville Raiders, the Coweta Cannons and the Sharpsburg White Sox. All of Dr. Long's children have served or are currently serving in the military. During the later years of his life, Dr. Long spent his time visiting his children across the globe.

All of Dr. Long's children served in the military, and he was very proud and encouraging of their service. Two of his sons graduated from the United States Naval Academy, two sons from West Point and his two daughters graduated from the Air Force Academy. While his children were serving he spent many of his weekends away visiting and watching them participate in athletics at their respective Service Academies. Dr. Long also served as the President of the West Point Georgia Parent

Club, helping other local parents connect and understand the West Point experience by hosting and sponsoring quarterly meetings around the state.

Dr. Long has been a member of First Baptist of Newnan for 21 years. At the time of his death, he was on the active board of deacons where just three weeks ago, he attended his last deacons meeting. Dr. Long hosted many events at his home as part of the Chinese ministry at First Baptist to include gatherings for the Chinese pilots training to be aviators in Newnan.

Dr. Long loved serving others. He gave his time and resources to orphans at

the Rock Ranch in Thomaston, Georgia. He taught his children to love people and to find a purpose in life helping others. Dr. Long often spent his Saturday's meeting and greeting patients at local schools and community events and served on the Board at the Summit YMCA. Dr. Long loved his work and his patients. He supported the Boy Scouts of America where his sons were actively involved in Troop 175 and 209 and followed them to become Eagle Scouts.

Since 1993, Dr. Long has served as a dentist on countless Christian Mission trips to Columbia, Honduras, and Ecuador. Dr. Long had a heart for the underprivileged and hundreds would line up to see him when he would arrive in country. He performed countless extractions to bring people out of suffering and would share the Gospel with his patients. His heart for missions was ongoing and he had planned to take another mission trip in 2020.

James found purpose in helping others as an orthodontist and loved bringing smiles to others. Dr. Long lived to work and bring joy to others. In February of 2019, Dr. Long was diagnosed with sepsis, and after an amputation and 6 months in the hospital, Dr. Long returned home where he was nurtured back to health by his family. Throughout his illness, he maintained a positive attitude and a strong desire to continue his craft, bringing smiles to others. Dr. Long never retired and was determined to do what God had purposed him to do all the way until the end. Dr. Long saw his last patient two weeks prior to his passing.

Dr. James is survived by his loving wife, Lisa Burton Long; children, James Richard Long II and his wife Jennifer (Huamin), Samuel Quince Long and his wife Jenna, Charles A. Long and his wife Racheal, John C. Long and his wife Chloe, Lainie Long Hoffer and her husband Lucas, Lindy Long Jones and her husband Tyler, James Tyler Long; grandchildren, Alice Long, Quince Long;

sisters, Sandra Long Williams, Judy Long, mother-in-law Pat Burton who was married to the late Quince Lamar Burton.

The celebration of life service will be held on Sunday, December 1, 2019 at First Baptist Church of Newnan at 2:00 PM with Dr. Jimmy Patterson officiating. The family will receive friends Saturday evening, November 30th from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM at McKoon Funeral Home, 38 Jackson Street, in Newnan.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.mckoon.com.

Cemetery Details

Westminster Memorial Gardens

Highway 54
Peachtree City, GA 30269

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 30. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Service

DEC 1. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Newnan
15 West Washington Street
Newnan, GA 30264
(770) 253-0797
info@fbcnewnan.org
<http://www.fbcnewnan.org>

Tribute Wall

LK

“ *What an incredible man and orthodontist! Our loss is truly heaven's gain. I was so sad to read this news. We lost so many family members over the last few years that I didn't see this before today. He will be sorely missed and I am praying for his very large and loving family.*

Lori Kelley - April 11, 2022 at 01:17 PM

CP

“ *I am saddend to hear of Dr. Long's passing. I met his family in the 90s, first doing cakes and catering the children's birthday parties and then babysitting them for years. Dr. Long was always kind and welcoming. We lost touch over the years, but I think of them often as I pass their street in Newnan visiting my daughter. I will never forget Dr. Long and his kind spirit. May God continue to bless and comfort Lisa and family!*

Cynthia Pittman - February 11, 2022 at 08:56 PM

CF

“ I am so sorry to read that the most wonderful orthodontist in the world has passed. Dr. Long treated our son in the 90s with braces and they had a great relationship. He had a great relationship with all of his patients. More recently, he re-braced me in 2018-2019 due to my teeth movement over the years. He always had a smile and treated me like his own family members. He all ways asked me how teaching was going and Lisa always had so much respect and praise for Fayette Co. Teachers. As i knew they would be, my teeth were beautiful and all in place after he finished them. I am devastated to hear of this loss to your family and to all the many lives he touched over the years. Please know I am finding this out a year or more later but you have my deepest condolences. I am so grateful for the opportunities to know him after our move to Georgia in the 90s. Bless you and your family, Lisa. Cathy Falzone



Cathy Falzone - July 01, 2021 at 10:38 AM



“ *As I prepare to get my 12 year old braces, I thought of and shared my memories with her of my experience with the best orthodontist, Dr. Long. I first met Dr. Long as a 12 year old girl that always covered her smile because of my crooked teeth. Throughout my visits, Dr. Long was always kind and gentle.*

I thought of him today and Googled to see what he may be up to these days and was sad to learn of his passing. My heart and prayers are with his family. Some people touch your life and you never forget them. I am now 43 and I will never forget Dr. Long. Continue to rest well, Dr. Long, enjoy your heavenly reward! I never cover my smile now! Thank you, Dr. Long!



Tracy Smith-Kelly - March 29, 2021 at 09:58 AM

JL

If only you knew what this means to me. God Bless you Tracy.

John Christopher Long - April 13, 2021 at 12:08 PM

LB

I miss his laugh and watching him make others happy and his joy will always be in my heart, I will never stop reading the post as a reminder of the importance of giving joy daily to all,

Lisa Burdette - January 28, 2025 at 04:49 PM

JL

“ *Thank you all for sharing your memories. I enjoy checking back here for people who knew him before I did. I wish I could read all of these to him!*

John Christopher Long - March 09, 2021 at 11:10 AM



“ You folks don’t know me but as an incoming freshman in September of 1969 I was met at Standiford Field by a cool dude driving a beautiful Austin-Healy 3000 MkIII.

His name was Jim Long and needless to say I was very impressed not only by the car but also by the guy behind the wheel. We became fraternity brothers for the next two years.

I regret never seeing him again after those years but I’m gratified, after reading his obit, to know of the wonderfully fulfilling life and legacy he created.

Rich Falcoff

Lincolnshire, IL

Richard Falcoff - September 05, 2020 at 12:29 PM



“ Lisa;

I was thinking of Jim yesterday and sadly found his obituary. We used to study together while at the University of Louisville Dental School between 1970 to 1974. He and his wife at the time visited myself and my wife here in California sometime in 1982. I was hoping he would make it to the 50th reunion but, that is just not going to happen. My memories of our time spent together are still clear to me. I am happy that he found you.

Regards, Bill Mekeel U. of L. Dental Class of 1974 on this day of August 2, 2020.

Bill Mekeel - August 02, 2020 at 09:19 PM

WL

“ Jimmy's family:

I am Billy Long Jim's cousin, (I used Jimmy and Billy because that is who we were) we grew up together on Hawley Street until we were about 10 when his family moved to Creekside in Tonawanda. We saw each other over the years but grew apart as time went on. We shared a lot in those early days of our life and I always looked up to him.

So today I met Sandra to look at a house and she told me Jim had passed. I am devastated that he is gone and berate myself for not looking him up on my few trips to Atlanta. His picture reminds me of his father who was the nicest person in the world.

Please accept my heart felt condolences.

Bill

William long - June 08, 2020 at 05:23 PM

BT

“ *I just learned about the passing of Dr. Long. He was such an amazing doctor and person and truly gifted at what he did. He was me and brother's childhood orthodontist. I send my deepest condolences to the family. May he rest in perfect peace.*

Brittney Tigner - May 21, 2020 at 02:30 PM



“ *Dear Lisa and family;
I have just now heard of Dr. Long's passing. You have my sincere condolences. I know he will be missed. You and he were such strong, encouraging and supportive parents. I am sending my prayers for your, Jim's, Sam's, Charlie's, John's, Lainie's, Lindy's, their families and Jim Sr's family, continued strength and grace during this time.*

Betsy Daniell

Betsy Daniell - January 22, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“ *I have just heard of Dr. Long's passing. He was a lifesaver to my TMJ after seeing 8 different doctors in 2012. And I am currently a maintenance patient for Invisalign in the practice in Newnan. He was so personable and we found that he knew my mom's first cousin, Walter Sheffield in Emory Dental School. He said Walter (from Colquitt, Ga) was his mentor. Both believed in stretching the bone rather than extracting teeth for braces. After reading his story, I am inspired by all the accomplishments he made in his life not only with career but also his family, community and faith. God bless each of his family members as you accept this loss.*

Donna Fitzpatrick - January 08, 2020 at 11:53 PM

MB

“ Dear Lisa,
We are so sorry and shocked to hear of the passing of our beloved James. The last time I saw him, he looked so good and was so optimistic. We were out of town when you lost him. Our hearts go out to you and the family. All of you will be in our thoughts and prayers. He was such a great leader, and he will be missed by everyone. He made the world a better place for so many people.

You are so admirable and strong. Thank you for being a model wife, mother, and friend.

Fondly,
Mary Ann and Phil Browning

Mary Ann Browning - December 03, 2019 at 01:29 PM

BO

“ I was saddened to hear of Dr. Long's passing. I cannot believe it. Dr. Long serviced both my son and me in the 90's for braces when my children were students at Woodward Academy. I met Lisa as well during that time. I knew Lisa and Dr. Long were Christians just by the way they carried themselves and kept the 6 beautiful children busy doing work that was to help others. When I would visit him at his office for ortho work, he made me very comfortable and his office staff were so accommodating. I will always hold the Long Family in high esteem. I pray God's mercy and grace on the family and Dr. Long's legacy will live on through his wife and their children.

God's love,
Bonita Shelton



Bonita - December 02, 2019 at 12:55 PM

VF

“ *Great Husband, father and inspiration to so many*



Verna Funk - November 30, 2019 at 09:30 PM

MP

Jimmy was my cousin and a wonderful Christian man, father, grandfather and doctor. I have so many wonderful memories of growing up with my cousins in our loud, crazy, loving, large Italian family! My prayers go out to Lisa and the family along with Judy and Sandra. Jimmy is truly home and will be lovingly remembered and missed.

Mary Price - December 01, 2019 at 10:38 AM

RR

“ *Our family grieves the passing of Dr. Long. He will be missed and dearly remembered by the Rowe Family. His expert, family-oriented orthodontic care in Newnan touched all four children over a span of fourteen years, giving them all beautiful smiles. We will always remember his very special smile, joyful laugh, and upstanding example of service to God, country, and community. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Long and the entire Long family.*

Rebecca Rowe - November 30, 2019 at 04:45 PM

BR

“ *I am forever thankful for Dr. Long. It took me 40+ years to gain the courage to get braces, but because of his encouraging words, kindness and caring manner, I have my smile back. I am so Blessed to have met him and will never forget how he changed my life!*

Beverley Reichman - November 30, 2019 at 02:27 PM

SG

“ So sorry to hear! He was my orthodontist 35 years ago and was my daughters’ orthodontist a few years ago. He was a wonderful man who always had a smile on his face and made you feel welcome. He will be missed!

Shannon Gagliano - November 30, 2019 at 01:12 PM

MB

“ A true servant of God has gone home to be with his Lord. He will be missed by all who knew him. His true love for all he met was obvious. We are praying for all of you in your loss. You are dearly loved.

Marla, Bryant & Chandler Brandenburg

marla Brandenburg - November 30, 2019 at 11:03 AM

CB

“ Dr. Long was the orthodontist for both of my children 10 years apart. When I came in with my second child he recognized me and could not believe the young man with me was the same little boy that came with his sister so many years ago. He was the same sweet man and a great doctor for both of my children. He will be missed.

Christine Bourque - November 30, 2019 at 06:40 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Richard Long.



November 29, 2019 at 01:46 PM

JV

“ I worked a good while for Dr long. He was such a great Orthodontist. I so enjoyed his laughing attitude & joy with his patients for 9 years.
He had a wonderful loving family. When the girls were young & sometimes the boys came to work with him he would give them jobs to do.
He will be missed. Rest In Peace Jim!

Judy Vann - November 29, 2019 at 08:51 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Richard Long.



November 29, 2019 at 08:15 AM



“ Rays of Light Spray was purchased for the family of James Richard Long.



November 28, 2019 at 10:47 PM

BS

“ Jim always has a smile to share. Shared a lot of good times at gymnastic meets.

Barbara Green Searock - November 28, 2019 at 09:48 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Richard Long.*



November 28, 2019 at 01:25 AM



“ *We first met Dr. Long shortly after moving to Georgia, while looking for a family orthodontist. We could not have expected to have met a true friend. It has been a blessing to have met Dr. Long—he has welcomed us into the Newnan community with open arms, and his kindness, warmth, energy, generosity and infectious laughter will be dearly missed by everyone who knew him. We are incredibly saddened by this news and will keep the Long family in our thoughts and prayers. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies.*

Zhu Family - November 28, 2019 at 01:18 AM



“ *Ya : Promise of God, Comfort and hope. Dr. Long. You are role model always inspire me work hard... Beyond the valley of sadness lies the comfort of grace. Lisa , With wishes for all kind of healing, as you and your family believe you loved one will never die. .. He shelters with his goodness all the time.*

Ya - November 27, 2019 at 09:05 PM

CB

“ Dr. Long was an Amazing man who had a big heart. He always wore a smile on his face. He always appeared to be happy. Full of energy and life. He would always acknowledge me (Sabrina Baitey) and my grandson (Jairo Zarate). He remembered my mother (Ruth Baitey) and sister (Sheretta Parker). My mother Ruth (deceased) and my sister Sheretta both worked for Dr. Long and Lisa. They helped with the 7 kids they had...Dr. Long would always have a story to tell me about the kids when they were younger and some of the things they said to my sister Sheretta. He would just laugh, he had an awesome sense of humor. Always in good spirit and a kind hearted man. My grandson loved talking to Dr. Long. He made all the kids feel comfortable when checking their teeth...My grandson kept asking when was he coming back. He's heart broken that Dr. Long is never returning....Rest in Peace Dr. Long. I know you earned your wings...We Love You!..



Cebrenna (Sabrina) Baitey - November 27, 2019 at 01:06 PM

BP

“ Shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Long. Our prayers are with your family.



Blair Peeples - November 27, 2019 at 12:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Richard Long.*



November 27, 2019 at 11:46 AM



“ *Dr. and Mrs. Alvin Clair and family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of James Richard Long.*



Dr. and Mrs. Alvin Clair and family - November 27, 2019 at 11:22 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Richard Long.*



November 27, 2019 at 08:47 AM



“ *Dr. Long was such a wonderful example of how to be a Christian servant. I can only imagine the glory he feels as he had made his entry into eternal life in the presence of the God he served.. My heart is heavy as I pray for God's peace and comfort to overwhelm this wonderful family.*

Walter Bellisle - November 27, 2019 at 07:13 AM

KM

“ *He was a blessing to me and others. He taught me how to do lab work and orthodontics I will forever be grateful and you will be greatly missed. Kathie Mctyre*

kathie mctyre - November 27, 2019 at 06:44 AM

DC

“ *Mrs. Lisa,
I am so sorry to hear of Dr. Long's passing. He was a kind man with a beautiful smile. He served lots of people and was loved by all. But most important, he was a Christian - praise God!!! The Amazing Smiles Family Dentistry team is praying for you and your family.*

Dr. Kimberly W. Chubb - November 27, 2019 at 06:23 AM

LD

*Lisa & Family-
My heart goes out to y'all with the passing of Jim. Jim was a loving, kind husband and dad. Always willing to help in anyway. The Long family has touched my heart and soul throughout the time I've known them. You are in my prayers
Love Liz*

Liz Dodson - November 29, 2019 at 02:36 PM

WA

“ *You were the best, I started with him in 1986 and worked with him until he had to take a break. You were like family to me! I will always remember you, your laugh, smile and your love for friends! To the best boss ever! love you*

wanda - November 26, 2019 at 10:53 PM

KM

Hey it's Kathie I worked with you

kathie mctyre - November 27, 2019 at 06:32 AM

DW

“ Savannah has seen Dr. Long for 7 years during both phases of her orthodontic journey. We made the commute from Dville to Newnan after he closed his practice and started with Family Ortho. When Savannah was kicked in the mouth at cheer, he went above and beyond. Always a smile, always making us both feel welcome. We were praying for him when he was on medical leave. He will be missed. Prayers for his sweet wife and his children. The world has lost a real gem. Sincere sympathy from the Williams family.

Debra Williams - November 26, 2019 at 10:31 PM

DR

So sorry to learn of Dr. Long's passing. He raised with Lisa exceptional children. Praying for this wonderful family.

Dawn Richards - November 27, 2019 at 09:38 AM



“ Cherished Memories was purchased for the family of James Richard Long.



November 26, 2019 at 10:22 PM

KH

“ Karen Hubbard lit a candle in memory of James Richard Long



Karen Hubbard - November 26, 2019 at 09:13 PM

CR

“ He was my sister, my niece and I think 2 of my cousins as well as my orthodontist. Such a wonderful person and man. Sorry for your loss may you all find peace and comfort during this time. God bless you all and his legacy will live on for sure with everyone he touched throughout his life and career. Always thought of him from time to time.

Christy Rochester - November 26, 2019 at 09:12 PM

GS

“ Though physically absent from the present, Jim remains a tremendous and motivating force. His smile lifted everyone. Never will his vibrant, percussive laughter fade away.
Gerry & Betty Samson

Gerry Samson - November 26, 2019 at 07:51 PM

C2

“ CDM Class of 2021 purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of James Richard Long.



CDM Class of 2021 - November 26, 2019 at 07:51 PM

AG

“ Mrs. Lisa,
I am so sorry for the loss of Mr. Jim. Many prayers for you and your family.
My sincerest condolences,
Ashley Betsill Garcia

Ashley Betsill Garcia - November 26, 2019 at 07:42 PM

TW

“ *Lisa and Family,*

So sorry to hear of Jimmy's passing. His laughter certainly could be heard across a room and would light up where ever he was. I always loved when he visited Buffalo and My dad always looked forward to visiting and joking with him. Many happy memories were made on vacation at sparrow lake.

His love of family , people and community certainly is apparent by all the work he orchestrated for those In need that he could help, in his life's work and immense pride in his wife, their children and spouses.

I am sure his presence here on earth will be palpable and he will be missed by all who loved him but I can't help but think about the deep laughter, huge smiles and the joyful reunion he is having with Uncle Sam, Aunt Bernice, Uncle Charlie and all his other Aunts , Uncles and relatives and how they are joking.

Sending strength for all the family at this difficult time

Love Theresa Winner (Long) and family

Theresa Winner - November 26, 2019 at 07:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Richard Long.*



November 26, 2019 at 06:54 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of James Richard Long.*



November 26, 2019 at 06:17 PM



“ *God truly gained an angel today. Dr. Long was one of the kindest, most caring citizens of the world. He will be missed. The Arfanakis family is lifting prayers for your family.*

Dr. Dimitri Arfanakis - November 26, 2019 at 04:57 PM



“ *Lisa, Sam and Family: Our heartfelt condolences go out to all of you. Please know we are keeping you close in heart as you mourn, cherish and honor Jim who was so loved.*

John and Sheryl Fries

John A Fries - November 26, 2019 at 04:50 PM



“ *Prayers and love from the Hellgeth family. Our thoughts are with you all.*

Rebecca Hellgeth - November 26, 2019 at 04:26 PM

KB

“ *May God’s arms wrapped around each of you bring peace and comfort during this time.
Prayers, God Bless,*

Kathy Barnett - November 26, 2019 at 03:42 PM

JP

“ *We will so miss seeing that wonderful smile and hearing his ready heartfelt laughter. Dr. Long brought so much life and joy to others. He truly was a wonderful servant of God. We are praying for you all during this difficult time!*

*Love in Him,
Jimmy, Amy and Nathan Patterson*

Jimmy Patterson - November 26, 2019 at 03:26 PM

JL

“ *Beautiful write up for a wonderful man; he lived to serve others without hesitation. I can see his big smile and hear him lighting in heaven with my Dad. God bless Lisa, Charlie and Rachel, Sam and Jenna, John and Chloe, Lainie and Lucas, Lindy and Tyler, and all of the grandchildren. Prayers and condolences from the Long Family in Buffalo, NY.*

Joseph Long - November 26, 2019 at 03:13 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Richard Long.*



November 26, 2019 at 03:09 PM

MC

“ *Prayers from the Clark family! He took care of both our Boys teeth and also memories at the baseball games in Sharpsburg!*



Mike, Donna, Zach and Clint - November 26, 2019 at 02:13 PM