



Trevaris Long, Corey Long, Elmer Long,
Kirby Long, Myron Long,
Jarrett Long

Dennis Jackson, Derrin Evans,
Demetrius Harper, Lamar Long,
Elmer "Bubby" Long, Jr.

Family and Friends

Immediately after the
service in the fellowship hall.

Monday, October 14, 2024

9:30AM - LANE 2

Jacksonville National Cemetery

4083 Lannie Road | Jacksonville, Florida 32218

Mrs. Long and the entire family extend their love and gratitude for all the prayers, calls, texts, food, flowers and visits. We are grateful for the support from friends, neighbors and various organizations. We are praying for each one of you.

“I have found the one whom my soul loves” Solomon 3:4

“Know God for Yourself”

“Don’t take no wooden nickels” (GW Long)

“Hold Your Horses” (Pauline Long)

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ERIC BERNARD LONG



SUNSET
OCTOBER 3, 2024

Saturday, October 12, 2024 - 12PM
New Life Community United Methodist Church
 11100 Wingate Road | Jacksonville, Florida 32218
 Lamont A. Hogans, Sr. - Pastor

OBITUARY

ORDER OF SERVICE



Eric Bernard Long was born on June 24, 1962 to the parents of George Washington (GW) and Pauline Long. Eric was a proud OH-IO native who was born in the city of Akron on Rainbow Drive. He was known to most as Eric or E.B., but to his family and friends of Ohio, he was affectionately known as “Bunn.”. He was a cherished man known for his kind, loving, caring, and humorous personality, who left us on October 3, 2024. He lived a life filled with tremendous passion and service towards others.

As a youngster, he and his friends were known as the “Rainbow Raiders”. Eric often spoke of his childhood shenanigans. He was always that witty, rambunctious, funny character who would create random nicknames for the people in his life. He was the youngest of nine siblings, consisting of six boys and three girls and together they are affectionately known as the “Strong Nine.”

Eric graduated from Buchtel High and later attended Akron University, where he majored in Health Sciences. Eric’s dream was to become a doctor. Instead, he decided to serve his country and joined the United States Navy in 1983. He fulfilled a part of his dream by attending the Corp School in San Diego, California and practicing in Camp Lajuene, South Carolina. As a field corpsman in the Navy, he spent all his time with the Marines. Though he did not become a civilian medical doctor, working as a corpsman allowed him the opportunity to practice in the medical realm of orthopedics and still be called “Doc.”

After serving in the U. S. Navy for six years, he took the suggestion of a buddy who said he could find work in Jacksonville, Florida. He soon jumped in his red Ferraro and planted his roots. He worked as a Logistics Specialist at the Bendix Corporation at the Jax Port. When the ships were deployed to Desert Storm, his job closed, and he began working odd jobs until he discovered Jacksonville’s Sheriff’s Office, JSO.

His career in law enforcement began in May of 1991 with the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office. He served the city of Jacksonville until he retired on December 30, 2015. Eric served in many departments including a patrol officer, a detective, Juvenile and Career Criminal Unit and School Board Investigator. He even worked in the Sex Offender Unit where he and Officer Rodney Pinckney created the S.C.A.M.P. Program. He eventually went back to patrol Zone 5 as a Training Officer, to ride out the last two years before retiring.

Eric’s shining moment was when he became one of the first African Americans to make the S.W.A.T. Team. Here, he was affectionately known as the “Swatdawg”, and he wore it with great honor and enormous pride. According to him, his next shining moment was going to college at age forty-two, earning a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration. Juggling the demands of work and being a single father had its challenges. Eric would say it was all worth it because that is where he met his wife, Legá in 2007.

After being together for seven years, the two joined in holy matrimony on March 9, 2014, and were inseparable for a total of seventeen years. He would always quote to her, “He who findeth a wife, findeth a good thing.” They spent their years together raising their children, traveling, enjoying their friends, cooking and simply spending time talking. His departure leaves an unfillable void in her life, yet she finds comfort in the memories and the everlasting agape love they shared.

Eric also loved all types of sports, fishing, cooking, gardening, landscaping, cleanliness, storytelling and more recently, delving into holistic wellbeing. Yet, everyone knew one thing, he was the Ohio State Buckeyes football team’s absolute number one fan.

Eric was a shining example of how to think of others, a value that was central to his character. He left a mark on others through his kindness, empathy and capacity to bring joy and laughter to those around him. He has a true love language of service that touched all he encountered. His love for God was his greatest quality. As we grapple with the loss of his physical presence, we find solace in knowing that his spirit lives on through us.

Eric was preceded in death by his parents: George Washington Long Jr. and Pauline Long; grandparents: William and Aurelia Marsh; uncles: Franklin Marsh, Sr. and Clarence Marsh and nephew: Myron Owen Long, Jr.

He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife: Lega' K. Long; children: Trevaris Long, Corey Long; bonus children: Taquayha Peterson (Wayne), Victor Anthony Woodards II, Aea Celestice; siblings: Elmer Rudolph (Yvonne), Jarrett Lozel, Kirby Lee, Sylvette Gwen, "Butch" Warren Irvine (Paula), Myron Owen, Andu Trisa (Nelson Paschal) and Chandra Renita; grandchildren: Taraya Nickerson, Cayla Nickerson, Trevaris Long Jr, Caleena Long and Jezreel Long; goddaughter: Angela Travis (Gerald); nieces and nephews who he adored and held a very special place in his heart and a plethora of great friends, neighbors and acquaintances.

“FOR MY WIFE”

(These words were handwritten by Mr. Long to his wife two weeks before his transition.)

Sometimes, marriage gets a little “Complacent” because we get caught up in the daily “Rituals” of “Worldly Life.” However, work and distractions may become something you have to deal with every day. You are amazingly Smart, Loving, a Nurturer, Sexy, Beautiful, God-fearing, Caring, Faithful, Honest, Brilliant, Grateful, Joyful, Graceful, Powerful, etc., etc., etc. Just wanted you to know...you are Blessed, Covered, and Redeemed! Thank you, Legá. Love you babe.

Love Always,

Eric

Bishop A. C. Richardson, Presiding
Bishop Elect Roderick E. Pinckney, Officiating

Processional/Viewing

Scriptures Reading
Old Testament Assistant Pastor Latonya Carter
New Testament Assistant Pastor Latonya Carter

Invocation Minister Lewis Cherry

Selection Minister Michael Hogans

Reflections – (As a courtesy to the family, please remember the two-minute rule)
Dennis Jackson As a Best Friend
Derrin Evans As a Neighbor
Vern Campbell As a Friend/Military Member
Family Member
Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office

Acknowledgements and Resolutions

Silent reading of the obituary to soft music

Selection Lolita Smith

Words of Comfort Bishop Elect Roderick E. Pinckney

Recessional

