



James "Jim" Stillman Long

November 21, 1940 - April 20, 2023

James Stillman Long, age 82, passed away on Thursday, April 20, 2023, in Del Rio, Texas. A Memorial Service will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 100 Spring St., Del Rio, TX 78840, from 10 - 11 a.m., with a graveside service at the Masonic Cemetery following directly.

James, or as most knew him, "Jim," was born on November 21, 1940, to Dorothy Belle Aderhold Long and Stillman Young Long, both of Del Rio, TX.

Growing up, he loved all things aviation and building model airplanes, history, specifically Texas, local and military history, fishing, hunting, and spending time on Lake Walk. He loved boating and, like his father, was an avid water skier and boater. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family: parents, grandparents, cousins, friends, and his younger sister Mary Kay.

He attended Garfield Elementary, Del Rio Middle School, graduated from Del Rio High School in 1959, and went on to study at the University of Texas.

During 1963-65, he served in the U.S. Army with the Headquarters Detachment, 394th Transportation Battalion (Terminal). This period of service included four months in Southeast Asia, where he was located in the Command Center at Qui Nhon during the landing of the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile), and the Republic of Korea Capitol Division, Operations "Highland"

and "Goodfriend."

A fifth-generation native of Del Rio, Jim was very proud of and dedicated to his hometown and his family's military and community service legacy. After returning to civilian life, he worked with his parents in the firm established in 1925 by his grandfather, former Del Rio mayor John Young Long.

Jim married Elina May in 1977, and they had two children, Katherine Elizabeth (b. 1979) and James Stillman Long II (b. 1981).

Jim firmly believed in faith, family, community, contribution, and service. He lived his life by those principles and the Golden Rule, regardless of race, religion, creed, or color, each and every day of his life. He was a private, caring, generous, and soft-spoken man with a huge heart who loved his family, history, Del Rio, Laughlin Air Force Base, and the storied 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. Jim maintained his deep passion for history, old westerns, and country music and always took the opportunity to read a good book or study something new. Throughout his life, He continued to share his love of the outdoors, hunting, and fishing with friends and family. Jim was a devoted follower of the Lord, son, brother, grandson, husband, father, and uncle who was just as proud of his two children as they were of him.

Jim always saw Del Rio as the oasis it was, is, and could further become. He hoped that one day, Del Rio would become something akin to Lajitas as a destination for the outdoors, fishing, hunting, golf, and the vibrant culture in our sister cities. Jim was a proponent of the lake and an instrumental advocate for the naming and establishment of Lake Amistad Reservoir and Dam.

Beyond his family and years of service to his community, his proudest contribution was his part in forming The Laughlin Heritage Foundation

(L.H.F.M.) in 1986 and subsequent museum to share and preserve Laughlin's History.

L.H.F.M. is dedicated to highlighting Del Rio's and L.A.F.B.'s place in history from the inception of Laughlin through the Bay of Pigs. His work to honor those U2 pilots who risked their lives and those who perished went even further through the planning and organization of an annual 4080th S.R.W. reunion for pilots and their families to come together and share their stories. The latest was held in 2022.

Mr. Long was a 32-degree Master Mason with the following affiliations:

Member & Past Master of Val Verde Lodge #646

Member & Past District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

Member of Alzafar Shrine Temple in San Antonio

Member of San Angelo Knights Templar Commandery #28

Member of The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Valley of San Antonio

Member Companion Knight of York Texian York Right College No. 60

Member - St. Anthony Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders

Lifetime Member - The Royal Order of Scotland, the Provincial Grand Lodge,

R.S.Y.C.S. and Provincial Grand Chapter, H.R.M. of K.L.W.N.G. of the United States of America

Member of the Order of Eastern Star Del Rio Chapter #204

Jim was also a proud Del Rio Host Lion's Club member for 57 years. From 76-77, he served as district governor of Lions International District 2-A2, the second largest district of Texas, covering approximately 29,000 square miles. He was chairman of the board for the Southwest Texas Lions Eyebank, and a director of the Texas Lions League for Crippled Children, of which he had a life membership.

Jim Long held the title of president of the Del Rio Board of Realtors four times and director of the Texas Association of Realtors twice. He also served two terms as a director of the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce and held the office of vice-president twice, devoting his attention to economic development, tourist generation, and convention activity.

He was a Lay Delegate to the Southwest Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church for five years.

As an appointed city official, he was on the City Planning and Zoning board for three terms and was chairman of that body for two years.

An active supporter of air power, Jim was a life member of the Air Force Association and was vice-president of the AFA-Texas from 1976-81. He also continued his family's passion for aviation and held a commercial pilot certificate with multi-engine land and instrument ratings.

Jim was from a long line of military patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War, the French and Indian War, the Battle of New Orleans, the Civil War, the Battle of San Jacinto, The Alamo, and so many others, as such, he was a member of The Sons of the Republic of Texas, William Barrett Travis Chapter and numerous other military organizations.

Mr. Long was a Val Verde County Historical Commission member and vice-chairman of that organization in 1984.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, Stillman and Dorothy Long, his grandparents, and numerous cousins, aunts, and uncles.

He is survived by his daughter, Katherine Elizabeth Long; his son, James

Stillman Long II; his former wife, Elina M. Long; his sister, Mary Kay Parker; his niece Abby Parker Nachtway and her children; his cousin Jim (Ann) Aderhold and their sons, Jon Abbey and family, numerous friends and 2nd & 3rd cousins, and 11 nieces and nephews and their families through marriage.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his name to the following:

Checks made out and sent to:

The Laughlin Heritage Foundation, Inc

IRC 501 (c)(3)

P.O. Box 1348

Del Rio, TX 78841-1348

Lion's Camp

<https://lionscamp.ejoinme.org/MyPages/DonationPage/tabid/81165/Default.aspx>

Shriner's Hospital for Children

https://donate.lovetotherescue.org/give/119312/#!/donation/checkout?utm_source=shrinerschildrens&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=donateheader&utm_campaign=shrinerschildrens&c_src=shrinerschildrens&c_src2=header

Checks or other monetary gifts

Make your check payable to Shriners Hospitals for Children — Texas

Mail to:

Shriners Children's Texas

Donor Development – Suite 523

815 Market Street
Galveston, TX 77550

Previous Events

Friends & Family Gathering

APR **28**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Mortuary
206 Kings Way
Del Rio, TX 78840
(830) 775-2230
info@trinitymortuary.com
<https://www.trinitymortuary.com>

Memorial Service

APR **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
100 Spring St.
Del Rio, TX 78840

Graveside Service

APR **29**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Masonic Cemetery
West End of 2nd St.
Del Rio, TX 78840

Full Military Honors rendered by the United States Army & the Jesus M. Limones American Legion Honor Guard Post #595 followed by Masonic Burial Ritual

Tribute Wall

JP

“ Great obituary. Very full life. Jim invited me to a 4080th SRW reunion a few years back but work kept me away. My father was the U-2 wing commander (including during the Cuban Missile Crisis) from summer 1961 - summer 1965...when he then commanded the SR-71 wing. We lived on Laughlin A.F.B. (Arnold street if I remember correctly- I was 7 and 8 and am now 71!) for two short years but thoroughly enjoyed our time there. Del Rio was very welcoming and I am still in contact with one second-grade schoolmate who still lives there.

Anyway, enough rambling. Jim did an outstanding job with the museum and I enjoyed the several emails we had back and forth.

*John Des Portes
Mesa, Arizona*

John Des Portes - December 21, 2025 at 11:37 PM

GO

“ Jim was a fine man who we knew through his children in school and church. Our deepest condolences to his family.



Glenda Overfelt - May 17, 2023 at 09:35 PM

LM

“ Our sincere condolences to Mrs. Long and family for this great loss. May you find peace in all the precious memories.
Lou Edna and Robert Musquiz

Lou Edna, Robert Musquiz - May 02, 2023 at 12:21 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Stillman Long.



April 28, 2023 at 08:30 PM



Katherine Long

“ Love you, Dad❤️



Katherine Long - April 27, 2023 at 09:37 PM



Wonderful picture of Jim. Of all the attributes mentioned, didn't see one about his keen sense of humor. This really reflects that side of him. His laugh was contagious! A humble and quiet man, but always ready with a smile!

Linda Mulder - April 28, 2023 at 06:53 PM



A solid representative of the Del Rio community.

Leo Lamontagne - July 26, 2023 at 04:42 PM

PH

“ Jim makes me think of John Wayne, *The Quiet Man*. He could do it all without talking about it. What a diverse talent in such a bundle of humanity. When he did speak (quietly) it was with honesty, sincerity and intelligence. His life of service to others was the core of his Christian beliefs and he lived it every day. He will be missed by all of us but the Lord has priority on his soul. Pat Halloran

Pat Halloran - April 26, 2023 at 06:50 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Stillman Long.



April 26, 2023 at 03:47 PM

CP

“ From Chris Pocock: I have posted a longer version of this appreciation on my website www.dragonladyhistory.com

"I will always be indebted to Jim for facilitating my attendance at reunions organized by the LHF. My first visit to one of these was in 1987. Despite being an outsider - and moreover, an 'alien' from across the water! - I was well received by the distinguished crowd. The stories that they told made key contributions to my first book DRAGON LADY, which was published in 1989.

"Jim was a quiet Army veteran, but he embraced and perpetuated this remarkable Air Force history with enthusiasm and dedication. He was generous with his time helping myself and other researchers. He made some important contributions."

Chris Pocock - April 26, 2023 at 03:24 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray* was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Stillman Long.



April 25, 2023 at 11:51 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Stillman Long.



April 24, 2023 at 07:35 PM