



Matthew Bruce Long

January 22, 1977 - January 8, 2022

Matthew Bruce Long, 44, of New Market, Virginia, died at the University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville, on January 8, 2022.

Matt was born in the same hospital on January 22, 1977, to Larry Francis Long and Carolyn French Long. He grew up in New Market, where he loved living on his family's turkey farm, driving a four-wheeler, exploring Smith Creek, and hanging out at the hut he and his friends had built on its banks. Matt loved the thrill of a good adventure, and was known to race a car or two. He enjoyed being outdoors, hiking, skiing, and any other activity that took him into the mountains. But far and away his greatest pleasure was the one he inherited from his father: his love of flying. Like his dad, he got his pilot's license when he was sixteen.

Matt graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School and attended Bridgewater College. We forget sometimes how much the world can hurt. In 1997, Matt sustained a catastrophic accident while hiking, which changed every facet of his life. Despite injuries that permanently confined him to a wheelchair, he graduated from college, married, and became a father. He worked for the State Corporation Commission for as long as his health would allow, earning a position as a Senior Investigator. In 2010, due to medical complications, he moved back home to the valley he loved. For all that his poor health took from him, he remained a loving father and son. He will always be remembered, by those who loved him, for his courage in the face of

unspeakable suffering.

Matt is survived by his son, Francis Long, who was the pride and joy of his life; by his mother; by his siblings: Adam and Lisa Long, Emma and Brooks Garber, and Taylor Long; and by his nephews, Brooks Garber and Pierson Garber. He is also survived by his uncles and aunts: Allan and Nancy Long, Sandra Long and Sadonna Long; Marian (DeeDee) and William Logan, Douglas and Shirley French, Martin and Fabiana French, Christina and Alfred Price, William and Anne French, Shelley and Peter Schechtel, Amy and Stephen Barbour, and Timothy French; as well as by his extended Long and French families. He was preceded in death by his father; by his uncles C.W. (Billy) Long, Jr. and Stephen Long, Sr.; by his grandparents, Frances and Clarence (Jim) Long, and Marian and Douglas French, Sr.; and by his nephew Noah Long.

A celebration of Matt's life will be held at Reformation Lutheran Church in New Market at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 15th. The Church requires that everyone who enters the sanctuary be masked, and masks will be supplied for all in attendance. The service will also be live-streamed at <https://youtu.be/-TGqNEsKmT0>. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made in Matt's memory, in support of those living with paralysis, to the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, Quality of Life Grant, 636 Morris Turnpike, Suite 3A, Short Hills, NJ 07078: <https://www.christopherreeve.org/>

Online condolences can be left at www.valleyfs.com

Arrangements by Heishman Funeral Home Inc., Valley Funeral Service Branch, Edinburg.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 15. 2:00 PM (ET)

Reformation Lutheran Church
9283 N Congress St
New Market, VA 22844

Tribute Wall



“ *Matthew Bruce Long*

January 30, 2023 at 03:03 AM



“ *Matthew Bruce Long*

January 30, 2023 at 12:44 AM



“ *We at Bridgewater College are so sorry for the loss of Matt and offer our sympathy to his family and all who were touched by his good and courageous life. May cherished memories of Matt bring a measure of comfort, encouragement and peace in the days ahead.*

*Robbie Miller
BC Chaplain*

Robbie Miller - January 21, 2022 at 09:30 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Matthew Bruce Long.*



January 14, 2022 at 10:55 AM

JD

“ My heart goes out to you as you mourn this great loss. William and I will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. I hope that your grief lessens with each passing day.

I certainly enjoyed babysitting your beautiful, adventurous son!

Judy (Good) and William Drury

Judy Drury - January 14, 2022 at 12:43 AM

AP

“ With our sympathy for your loss.
Phil & April Baker

April - January 13, 2022 at 07:23 PM

GF

“ I did not know Matt personally but I remember when he fell, this was so devastating for the family but they did as they always do and pulled together for each other, as I know they will do now. Always in my thoughts and prayers. ~Grace Farmer

Grace Farmer - January 12, 2022 at 10:51 AM

SG

“ Our deepest sympathy for the loss of your loved one. Matt was a dear friend to my father John Good. Matt would come up. ask if we had any tomatoes dad would always try to find him some from the garden. Prayers for all of you. May the Lord give you strength to get through this difficult time. Again our deepest sympathy. John and Shirley Good

Shirley Good - January 12, 2022 at 10:42 AM

RD

“ So very sorry for your loss. You all are in my prayers.
Rebecca Doughty (Mumpower)



Rebecca Doughty - January 12, 2022 at 03:05 AM

MW

“ *Matt had a great laugh, a great smile and a great light. I'll always treasure the nights we spent hanging out on the farm down by the creek around a campfire laughing and telling stories. Perfect nights, right out of dream! I'm so thankful and feel blessed to have know him as a friend! He was always fun to be around. Although you never could predict exactly what he might say, he was definitely gifted at getting us all laughing! He's terribly missed already. I'm so sorry for everyone's loss. His loved ones are in my prayers.* 🙏

Matthew Whitman - January 12, 2022 at 02:52 AM

LC

“ *Praying that God will grant you peace and comfort at this difficult time. Larry and Diana Crider*

larry and Diana Crider - January 11, 2022 at 09:13 PM

VF

“ *Valerie (Tusing) Fultz lit a candle in memory of Matthew Bruce Long*



Valerie (Tusing) Fultz - January 11, 2022 at 08:49 PM

VF

“ Matt was a good man who always had a smile on his face when I saw him. I remember when all of the Long men would come into Southern Kitchen when I worked there (1985-2006). They would take up 2 or 3 booths and would always have a joke or 2 to tell. I cannot imagine what Matt went through when he had his accident but he embraced it and worked through it. Being a "Smith Creek" girl myself, I know it wont be the same without Matt. I will be praying that you find comfort in your memories. Matt will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him. It's like a friend recently told me "we all grew up in the same area and it's like losing family when someone from Smith Creek road passes away" Rest easy Matt you will be missed.

Valerie (Tusing) Fultz - January 11, 2022 at 08:49 PM

BM

“ I remember Matt being a part of our Cross Country team. Always a teammate and condolences to his family and friends. Rest in peace.

Brian Miller - January 11, 2022 at 06:52 PM