

Dr. James Hart Long Jr. D.D.S. (1920 - 2016)



Dr. James Hart Long, Jr. D.D.S., went to be with the Lord peacefully on October 6, 2016, as Ginny, his beloved wife of 69 years, held his hand. Dr. Long, known to all as Hart, was born on April 25, 1920, in Conway, South Carolina. He graduated from Conway High School in 1937, Furman University in 1941, and Medical College of Virginia Dental School in 1944. An avid student of dentistry, he diligently studied until he added prosthodontist to his credentials. Many remember Dr. Long's excellent dental care and homespun chairside manner in which he might recite *The Cremation of Sam Magee*, discuss his heavenly Father's faithfulness, the latest antics of his children, politics, a book he was currently reading, or a wide range of life experiences.

Dr. Long retired in his eighties only after he was satisfied he had served the public as long as his unique experience and skills were needed. His integrity and faithfulness pervaded all areas of his life as a son, brother, husband, father, dentist, public servant, neighbor, and friend. Dr. Long was governed by a simple faith; he simply believed, trusted, and humbly followed his Lord wholeheartedly. Dr. Long ever strove to do what was true, just, and right; he followed in his father's footsteps. "I judged my father to be my best role model. He was wise, honest, generous, and all other good things. He treated all people the same..." City Council member and Mayor of Daytona Beach in the 1950's, Dr. Long, and some determined reformers, won the fight against Daytona's open, illegal gambling and corruption in city politics. He worked toward a smooth transition after segregation was outlawed to facilitate open seating on buses and open swimming on Daytona Beach for all races.

Beginning in the 1960's, Dr. Long served for 13 years on the Madison Heights Improvement Association, helping residents get better drainage of mosquito-infested standing water, alleviating sewage problems, and also obtaining street lights, easing thievery and promoting peaceful neighborhoods. In addition, Dr. Long served on the Halifax Hospital Board, in various civic clubs, as an elder and Sunday School teacher at First Presbyterian Church, a life member and former president of Central District Dental Society of Florida, life member and past president of American Equilibration Society, founding member of Florida Prosthodontics Association, life member of Academy of Prosthodontics, life member of American Academy of Denture Prosthetics, and life member of Volusia County Dental Association. In the 1960's, he joined with others to welcome The London Symphony Orchestra to Daytona Beach, promoting appreciation of some of the finest music in the area.

Dr. Long met his wife, Ginny, on a tennis court on Seabreeze Boulevard, and married her three months later. In deciding to marry, he simply said, "I couldn't do without her." For 69 years Dr. Long and "my Ginny" loved people and blessed them. They included all, young and old, rich or poor, with no respect of status, or expectation of return, around the family table and in their family circle. As Hart's Ginny says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over..." (Luke 6:38). "He was always my Barnabus, my encourager", says Ginny. Dr. Long's survivors are his wife, Virginia B. Long, sons James Hart (Jim) Long, III, and Ray Watford; daughters, Sarah Long Wiegman and Mary (Ginger) Long Andrews; grandchildren Rosabelle Gorman, Caleb Wiegman, Joseph Wiegman, Grace Wiegman, and David Wiegman, and great-grandchildren, Helen Wiegman, August Wiegman, and Marshall Wesley Gorman.