

Celebration of Life



Robert Long, Jr.

Sunrise
December 21, 1945

Sunset
January 15, 2019

January 22, 2019

Viewing: 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Service 1:00pm

Obituary

Writer-activist James Baldwin once wrote that *"People can't, unhappily, invent their mooring posts, their lovers and their friends, any more than they can invent their parents. Life gives these and, also takes them away and the great difficulty is to say 'Yes' to life."* Robert Long, Jr. not only said 'Yes' to life, but also served as a brilliant beacon of light – a lighthouse, in fact – to family, friends, loved-ones and associates.

Born in Durham, North Carolina to Robert Long and Frances Bullock Long, Robert Long, Jr., demonstrated an early love of and compassion for the welfare of others. He graduated from Hillside High School (1964) and served valiantly in the U.S. Army as Private First Class, (November 1965 - September 1967), during which time he was the recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnam Rifle Expert Service Medal.

On August 7, 1971 he was united in Holy Matrimony to Vicki Rush Long in Pinehurst, North Carolina. To this marriage one son was born, Phillip Ryan Long. He was a loving husband and father, who provided hands-on nurturing to his son.

Robert Long, Jr., earned a BS in Business Administration from North Carolina Central University in May 1976. Soon after, he began a 43-year tenure with the United States Postal Service, where he served numerous capacities (window clerk, supervisor, station manager and interim Postmaster). Perhaps his greatest role within USPS was serving as a mentor and friend to other employees.

Robert was a dedicated member of the Walltown Reunion Committee, serving as its Treasurer for many years, as well as for the Amy E. Kelly Education Foundation.

Robert Long's own experiences as a Black man in an often unkind and unpredictable world lead him to advocate and advise those he loved with a stern command, a gentle warning, and sometimes, simply a knowing look. He understood that while challenges face every person, it is how we face those challenges – with dignity, grace, and (when necessary) a bit of muscle, that ultimately determines our triumphs or failures.

He is survived by his wife, Vicki Rush Long, his son, Phillip Long (Danielle);

God Took Him To His Loving Home

God saw him getting tired, a cure was not to be.
He wrapped him in his loving arms and whispered
"Come with me".

He suffered much in silence, his spirit did not bend.
He faced his pain with courage, until the very end.

He tried so hard to stay with us but his fight was not in vain,
God took him to His loving home and freed him from the pain.

Ushers: Hillside Class of 1964

Pall Bearers: Hillside Class of 1964

Flower Bearers: Hillside Class of 1964

Acknowledgements

We deeply appreciate the many kind gestures and expressions of sympathy extended to us by you during the illness and passing of our loved one. Your friendship and love are most sustaining and shall always be remembered.

Special thanks to The Walltown Reunion Committee and Hillside Class of 1964.

Interment

Beechwood Cemetery
3300 Fayetteville Street
Durham, North Carolina 27707

Repast

St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church