



Terry C. Long

February 9, 1953 - March 24, 2026

We are heartbroken to announce that Terry Long of Blacksburg passed away suddenly on March 24 at Lewis Gale Hospital. After a 45 year career at USDA, he returned to his childhood home in Longshop in 2024.

Terry had a very active career at USDA. From his early years as a relief market reporter to his positions in Georgia, Los Angeles and finally as the Director of Market News for Specialty Crops in Washington, DC, Terry brought both purpose and humor to all he achieved. He was well loved by his colleagues and brought an innovative spirit to the industry. Selected to travel as an emissary to Russia numerous times at the end of the Cold War, Terry received honors for his work there. In the early 2000s, Terry helped bring 33 member countries in the Western Hemisphere together to create a cooperative network known as MIOA. He chaired that program for 22 years until his retirement.

Terry was born to Emmet and Verna Long, both of whom predeceased him. His brothers, Mike and Jay, also predeceased him. Although Terry travelled extensively and worked throughout the world, his heart remained on the hill in Longshop where he grew up, and he never tired of telling stories about his loving parents and brothers, catching rabbits, jumping off barn roofs and being chased by Betsy the cow. He returned there upon his retirement, spending time with his dearest friends, Chris Warner and Tom Brandt, volunteering at

the local food pantry, and writing his collection of stories, "Lessons From a Country Boy".

Terry is survived by his girlfriend, Karen Duncan Pape and her children and grandchildren. Little Frankie called him Toto and described him as her bonus grandpa. He brought the family great joy with his kind and loving spirit. He is also survived by special cousins Jackie Jones and Judy Ridinger, and his dear sister-in-law Dee Dee Butler-Long.

A visitation and short service for Terry will be held at McCoy Funeral Home on Thursday April 2 at 10:00 AM with graveside interment to follow. Anyone wishing to make donation in celebration of his life, please do so with a donation to the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry, a service for those experiencing food insecurity. They are located at P.O.Box 11382, Blacksburg, VA 24060 and may be reached at 540-951-8134 for more information.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

APR 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home Chapel
150 Country Club Dr S.W.
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Visitation

APR 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

McCoy Funeral Home Chapel
150 Country Club Dr S.W.
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall

KM

“ Sending comfort and love to Karen and family along with Terry's lifelong friends about whom he always spoke so fondly. Terry often seemed "larger than life" and his enthusiasm for the people and projects he was passionate about was contagious. As a role model, mentor, boss and friend Terry touched many lives and his legacy will live on both in the US and through his international work. He was so happy to reconnect with Karen and I'm sure that everyone who spoke with him in the past few years has seen their Junior prom photo. Terry was truly one of a kind, and he will be missed!

Kim Mercer - April 06 at 02:16 PM

JO

“ I knew of Terry since 1985 when I began my career in Market News. Terry was my supervisor in Washington DC from 1992 until 2022 when he retired. Terry always fought for MN to improve the program to better serve the produce industry. Terry would tell us of his childhood antics and humorous anecdotes. He looked forward to his fishing trips in Georgia and hunting trips at the cabin with his friends. Terry touched a lot of lives. I was saddened and shocked to hear about Terry's passing. my condolences to his friends and family. Rest in Peace Terry Long.

John Okoniewski - April 03 at 04:16 PM

RM

“ *Those who walk in the righteous way die in peace; they find rest on their deathbeds. Isaiah 57:2*

My condolences to the family of our dear Terry Long. May God grant them comfort and strength during this difficult time.

Terry has left a very important legacy within the OIMA–MIOA Organization. His spirit and perseverance in developing the market information system inspired all his colleagues from its founding until the final days of his life.

*He will always be remembered.
Rafaela Bobadilla de Martínez
Colleagues from MIOA–Paraguay*

Rafaela Bobadilla de Martínez - April 02 at 04:32 PM

LO

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Lisa Osborne - April 01 at 05:04 PM

DE

“ Mr. Terry Long - reporter, branch chief and friend. We entered the fruit and vegetable program at a similar time. Over the years we worked in the field and in DC separately and/or together on various projects and assignments. Always willing to help, contribute or lead. All to get the job done correctly and successfully. Terry Long, a genuine and pure credit to our program. A splendid individual and fine man. RIP.



Douglas Edwards

Douglas Edwards - April 01 at 03:00 PM



Doug, Jim Valladares

Jim Valladares - April 02 at 07:22 PM

MD

“ On behalf of the delegates of the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA) member countries, we say goodbye to our dear friend, Terry Long.
As the founder, President and President Emeritus, Terry was a true leader --one whose vision and dedication brought this organization to life and shaped its path over the years. And above all, he was a wonderful storyteller, with a unique way of bringing people together. His stories filled our meetings with laughter, warmth, and meaning, reminding us that beyond the work, it was always about people. We will deeply miss his presence, his humor, and the light he brought into every room.
With gratitude and affection, we honor his life and the indelible legacy he leaves behind in all of us.

MIOA DELEGATES - March 31 at 03:15 PM



“ *Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of Terry C. Long.*



March 31 at 02:52 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Terry C. Long.

March 31 at 02:52 PM



“ *I had such a great time working as liason for Market News. I worked in the USDA Specialty Crops resource management department. No matter what was needed, Terry was always willing to help me obtain it for his section since I was not a Market News specialist! All his employees seemed happy with Terry at the helm. I lost touch when I went to work for the Administrator's office, so I missed him and his wonderful sense of humor and ability to lighten any situation in a calm way. Terry's legacy will live on in all the people who had the pleasure to know him. I am sad. Terry will be missed even more now! Please contact your friends and acquaintences. Life is too short to not show people that you care about them!*



Pamela Braxton-Joyner - March 30 at 01:54 PM



💔 *so true. Life is too short.*

Jim Valladares - March 31 at 12:28 PM

JP

“ Terry Long did a lot for all of us at USDA Specialty Crops Market News!
I would not have had my favorite career job without him!
His steady and caring influence made the difference for all of us to have the outstanding careers We all were so fortunate to have.
It was an honor and privilege to work with and for our beloved leader and confident!
He certainly and categorically will be missed by each and every one of us!
No question— the Author of Life has a special place for this outstanding and beloved man, Mr. Terry, Long!!
Jim Praski (Jimmy Boy)
Boston Market News

James T Praski - March 30 at 12:21 PM

SE

“ During my time on OIMA, had the pleasure to work with Terry; amazing as a person and a professional. His Leadership on OIMA gave chance to improve MIS on the Americas. He will be missed.

Strength to the family and loved ones.

Hugs from Panama - Sócrates

setarcos02 - March 30 at 11:40 AM

JV

“ Terry & I first met when he came to the Los Angeles Market News office. I worked for the CA Dept of Food & Agriculture. We became good friends and worked together for many years. He eventually moved on to DC, and another agency recruited me to work there. One evening, I got a call from Terry asking if there was any way I could come back to head up the LA office as a USDA employee. We were able to work it out. I was there for about 3 years and then returned to my state agency. I don't think anyone that ever met Terry didn't become a friend. He was a country boy at heart and often related stories about his family, Blacksburg & Va Tech. Terry loved trout fishing, camping & hiking. and made many trips to the Sierra Nevada mountains in his beloved Volvo. We had some great times together. Some of them should never be revealed. He had a long & stellar career with the USDA. It's a shame he didn't get to spend more time in his well-earned retirement. He will be missed by many, especially his love, Karen and her family. Love you Terry. Rest in Peace my friend.



Jim Valladares - March 30 at 11:30 AM

MW

“ To Terry’s Family:

I have received with profound sorrow the notice of Terry’s passing. It is difficult to see a true friend gone. We had the opportunity to collaborate for more than 10 years in his favorite field of expertise. During this time I came to appreciate him as professional and friend but primarily as an exceptional person. Please receive my condolences and may our Lord help you to find peace soon. He will be greatly missed.

Sincerely

Miguel Garcia Winder

Miguel Jorge Garcia Winder - March 30 at 11:26 AM

CQ

“ On behalf of the delegates of MIOA member countries, we say goodbye to our dear friend, Terry Long.

As the founder, President and President Emeritus, Terry was a true leader — one whose vision and dedication brought this organization to life and shaped its path over the years. And above all, he was a wonderful storyteller, with a unique way of bringing people together. His stories filled our meetings with laughter, warmth, and meaning, reminding us that beyond the work, it was always about people.

We will deeply miss his presence, his humor, and the light he brought into every room.

With gratitude and affection, we honor his life and the legacy he leaves in all of us.

Carolina Quiros - March 30 at 10:48 AM

CA

“ We will surely miss Terry in Charlottesville. His stories, humor, loving manner and beautiful smile were always present. I am sad he is gone. Seems too soon. I will carry the wonderful memories of laughter and a kind man.

Christie Aderholt



Christie Aderholt - March 30 at 10:48 AM



“ Always with a smile on his face. 😊



Jim Valladares - March 29 at 05:52 PM

AL

“ I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Terry. He really was Mr. Market News.

Alesia Swan, USDA SCMN retired



Alesia - March 29 at 04:33 PM

YS

“ It is with deep sorrow that I received the sad news of the passing of Mr. Terry Long, an excellent professional and human being who shared his technical expertise with many professionals throughout the Americas for many years through his work at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Organization for Market Information of the Americas (OIMA). May he rest in peace, and my condolences to his family.

Yolanda Suárez Amézquita, from the Dominican Republic.

Yolanda Suarez - March 28 at 10:16 PM

HM

“ I had the privilege of working with Terry, who was my manager at OIMA. I will always remember him as a person of integrity—serious, dedicated, and deeply passionate about his work. That passion drove him to share his knowledge and experience beyond borders, making an impact across the hemisphere. Along the way, he built many meaningful friendships, and I feel grateful and fortunate to have been one of them. My heartfelt condolences go out to his loved ones and closest friends.



Helena Ramírez Montt - March 28 at 09:15 PM



Jim Valladares - March 29 at 04:03 PM

CS

“ *Joan and I were surprised and saddened to hear about Terry's passing. We weren't ready for that. We've been gone for about t month but I talked to him not long before I left and he seemed fine. I watched him grow up along with his brother and have known them for 60 years. Hard to believe he's gone. Know that the family and friends are in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Chuck*

Chuck Shorter - March 28 at 05:06 PM

BO

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Ben Owen - March 28 at 02:17 PM

KV

“ *We would like to send a gardener's symbol to Terry. He was a guiding light, an angel in our countries (OIMA). We will be so grateful.*

Karina Soriano Victoriano -Dominican Republic-



Karina Soriano Victoriano - March 28 at 12:18 PM

NM

“ Despite only having known him for a short time, I feel great sorrow for the loss of our dear Terry. As a member of the organization he founded over 20 years ago, I am grateful for his kind words towards me and for always addressing me by n my ame. I want to offer my sincerest condolences to his family and friends, and my prayers are with Terry.

N. Martinez



Nestor Martinez - March 27 at 09:59 PM

AD

“ Andrea Dansa and her family send their condolences to Terry’s family. We will remember him in our hearts as the friend he was.



Andrea Dansa - March 27 at 09:30 PM

JT

Mi más sentido pésame a toda la familia de mi querido amigo Terry, que el Señor me lo ponga en un buen lugar como se lo ganó por el gran amigo que fue y excelente jefe. Dios le dé descanso eterno.

Jeannette Leo Thomas - March 28 at 01:13 PM

JT

Paz a su alma

Jeannette Leo Thomas - March 28 at 01:14 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Terry C. Long.*



March 27 at 07:47 PM



“ *With heartfelt condolences.*
Lisa VanMeter
USDA Market News



Lisa VanMeter - March 27 at 07:10 PM



“ *Jim & Bonnie Valladares lit a candle in memory of Terry C. Long*



Jim & Bonnie Valladares - March 27 at 04:44 PM

JV

Terry & I first met when he came to the Los Angeles Market News office. I worked for the CA Dept of Food & Agriculture. We became good friends and worked together for many years. He eventually moved on to DC, and another agency recruited me to work there. One evening, I got a call from Terry asking if there was any way I could come back to head up the LA office as a USDA employee. We were able to work it out. I was there for about 3 years and then returned to my state agency. I don't think anyone that ever met Terry didn't become a friend. He was a country boy at heart and often related stories about his family, Blacksburg & Va Tech. Terry loved trout fishing, camping & hiking. and made many trips to the Sierra Nevada mountains in his beloved Volvo. We had some great times together. Some of them should never be revealed. He had a long & stellar career with the USDA. It's a shame he didn't get to spend more time in his well-earned retirement. He will be missed by many, especially his love, Karen and her family. Love you Terry. Rest in Peace my friend.

Jim Valladares - March 27 at 08:13 PM



I only knew Terry in high school and remember him as being a really kind and great guy. Evelyn Wenzel

Evelyn Wenzel - March 27 at 08:18 PM

SD

Terry Long was the voice and spirit of F&V Market News for the 25 years of my career in Market News. He touch my career is so many positive waves.

Steven Dailey - March 30, 2026

Steven Dailey - March 30 at 01:19 PM



My deepest condolences to the family. I worked in the Government USDA, Market News with Terry for over 35 plus years. I will never forget him, he taught me so many important things. He is gone but, he will never beforgotten. Terry and I retired the same time and the same year from Market News. My love and prayers are with the family. Malinda McNeil (Retired 2021). God's Blessings!

Malinda McNeil - April 01 at 09:05 AM