



Mr. Christopher J. "Chris" Long

July 14, 1974 - April 4, 2022

Christopher (Chris) Joseph Long, of Lee, MA, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on April 4, 2022, after a battle with chronic Lyme disease and liver failure. He is survived by his wife, Lauren Bolte Long and enthusiastic dog Uri; his Dad and Mom, Jim and Ann (Majchrowski) Long of Pittsfield; his sister Beth Long Lingo, her husband Jesse and their children Jackson and Amelia; parents-in law, Clint and Mary Bolte; sister-in-law Nicole (Bolte) Miller, her husband Dan and their children Alison and Liam; and extended family of Aunts, Uncles and Cousins.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia on July 14, 1974, Chris grew up in Pittsfield, MA. He graduated in 1992 from Pittsfield High School, where he was a star football player, and earned his undergraduate degree in Geology at Middlebury College (VT) in 1996. After graduation, Chris served as a member of the National Park Service at Jewel Cave (SD), Wind Cave (SD) and Carlsbad Caverns (NM). He wore many hats in the Park Service—delighting crowds as an interpretive ranger and safeguarding the forest as part of the wildland maintenance or fire crew. Chris then served several years as a Park Service wildland firefighter—first as Engine Boss at Lake Meredith Recreation Area (TX) and then as a member of the elite Arrowhead Interagency Hotshot Crew based out of Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (CA). As a hotshot, Chris served as “sawyer”—carrying a 40 pound chainsaw in addition to his regular gear over mountainous and treacherous terrain—and Emergency

Medical Technician (EMT) for his brother firefighters. In 2002, Chris returned “home” to Western Massachusetts. From 2002-2017, Chris worked for the Lenox Fire Department as the ambulance director—providing invaluable leadership to the EMT team and serving as hero to many families in the local area.

Chris lived a life of grand generosity, creativity, and adventure. A few highlights: For two years, Chris made pulled pork and hundreds of pierogis by hand (with the help of his Mom, Dad, and Lauren), which he served at the Lenox Apple Squeeze festival to raise money to support the Lenox Fire Department; he worked with Boston Red Sox legendary hitter, David “Big Papi” Ortiz, to donate an ambulance and EMT supplies to the Dominican Republic—Chris drove the ambulance around the Fenway Park field to help raise awareness for the cause and then flew down to the DR to train local medics on the gear. A master chainsaw carver, he coaxed bears, owls, pelicans, horses, octopi, etc. out of wood in stunning detail; he created gorgeous works of art using found materials—pinecones, fossils, corals, aged bones, rocks, and petrified shark teeth he collected across the globe. He has danced on the edge of volcanoes (literally), repelled down the largest pit cave in the world (the 1200 foot Cave of Swallows), mapped underwater sea caves in Central America, and ran from an abrupt wildfire eruption—sheltering in place under heat-insulating wrap and breathing into the dirt to protect his lungs. An avid forager, fisherman and outdoorsman, he also loved snorkeling and “freediving” in oceans and lakes—holding his breath for up to 5 minutes while he spearfished flounder, collected countless discarded lures, and (legally) caught lobsters by hand—including a whopping 7-pound lobster that he gifted to his Dad. He was a fabulous chef—gifting friends and family with his ceviche, smoked trout pate (made with trout he had caught himself), and seafood and BBQ feasts (using the smoker he had MacGyvered). He dedicated countless hours, boundless energy, and strong muscles to helping friends and family construct barns, decks, and arbors. Chris will be deeply

missed—we will remember his zest for life and sparkly goofy smile every time we see the sunlight dance on water.

Calling hours will be held at Roche Funeral Home in Lenox, MA on Friday, April 22, 3-7pm.

A memorial service will be held at the First Congregational Church in Lee, MA on Saturday, April 23 at 10am. Burial will follow in Fairmount Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please support the cause Chris cared about deeply—the Wildland Firefighter Foundation—<https://wffoundation.org>

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **22**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Roche Funeral Home
120 Main Street
P.O. Box 152
Lenox, MA 01240
(413) 637-0699
eroche120fh@gmail.com

Service

APR **23**. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church
Main Street
Lee, MA 01238

Burial

APR **23**. 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM (ET)

Fairmont Cemetery
lee, MA 01238

Tribute Wall

CL

“ Chris was an amazing person. Impossible not to love him. Our paths unfortunately went in different directions after Midd but I know that if I ever called him and said I need you, he'd be there in a heartbeat. At one point there was a bet. I forget know if he won or lost (I assume he won?) but he did 9000 pushups in a day. Someone else can do the math :) He always wanted to be a ranger/smoke jumper. God bless you Chris, we all miss you.



Chris Loudon - May 12, 2022 at 08:42 PM

DM

“ Chris and I took several geology classes together in college. He was there before me, welcomed me into the geology world and shared his enthusiasm, passion and love for people and being outside with me. Many times, in our freshman and sophomore years, when our class was over, Chris would eagerly grab me and we would go back to his place and watch "Bill Nye the Science Guy". I always thought that the next "Science Guy" might end up being Chris with his warmth and compassion, and excitement about science and world. I am saddened to hear about his passing and send sympathy and support to all who are feeling this loss.

Derry Mason - May 07, 2022 at 09:32 AM

AC

“ I remember Chris Long as a delightful boy in my 5th grade class at Williams School. A bright young man filled with laughter and a willingness to always help out. His beautiful obituary says it all. A kind, thoughtful, bright young man who had so much to offer. My deepest sympathy to his family especially to his father and sweet mother, Ann
Ann Callahan

Ann Callahan - April 22, 2022 at 04:15 PM

TF

“ Our deep sympathy at the passing of Chris at so young of age. He was a great, genuine guy who had a good heart and soul. He took people as they are and never judged anyone. He was dedicated to his job and his infectious smile helped him in treating people in need of assistance. He consistently laughed that hearty laugh at my often mundane and usually repetitive jokes. He was a pleasure to have around when working. May he now rest in peace. TPS

*The Sheehan family
Lenox Dale*

The Sheehan family - April 22, 2022 at 09:11 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mr. Christopher J. "Chris" Long.



April 15, 2022 at 07:46 PM

DB

“ For the past 19 years a small to medium size group of firefighters make the trek every April up Lucky Peak, just outside Boise, ID. At the top we tip a glass and remember fallen firefighters. Then we come down the 6000-foot peak and pass around the hat to collect money for the Wildland Firefighter Foundation. On April 16, several of us will make the trek again, including the NPS Wildland Fire Director Chad Fisher (former Alpine IHC). We'll be sure to include Chris Long in the list of brothers and sisters who have gone before us. (Buck, Arrowhead IHC 1981-1996)

Dan Buckley - April 14, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Sending our sincere condolences to the Long family, Lenox Fire and the many friends who he shared his wonderful smile with! The Lenox Community Center family.

Lenox Community Center - April 13, 2022 at 12:29 PM

RB

“ The day I met the "Dude" ... they rolled me into the back of the ambulance and he looked at me and said "Dude, dude dude, nice sweatshirt ... man that looks like it hurts." The whole time he is taking care of me. That about sums it up. What an awesome human being. I am privileged to have met him, work with him but most of all, laughed with him. Save some fish for me when I get there bud!

Ryan Brown - April 12, 2022 at 04:03 PM

LM

“ When Chris was a little boy we would have playgroup with several children, all the same approximate age and my son Tim Hart was in attendance. Tim loved Chris as he was always such a nice kid. As time passed I would see Chris frequently at Town Hall. He always had a smile and I would tell him to say "Hi" to his Mom for me. I was in the ER one evening and Chris came in with a patient, spotted me and went to get a warm blanket to cover me up, That is the kind of man he was. Warm, loving and gracious. I will miss that smile forever. RIP Chris. You were loved.

Linda Procopio Messana

Linda Procopio Messana - April 11, 2022 at 05:15 PM

MD

The first time I met Chris was when he was interviewing at the Town Hall for his job. It was a particularly busy day in my office, and as he sat waiting for his turn to interview he asked me if there was anything he could do to help me as he could see how busy I was. Who does something so kind like that? Chris Long, that's who. RIP Chris. You were truly a stand up guy.

Mary Ellen Deming

Mary Ellen Deming - April 11, 2022 at 05:42 PM

DK

Chris was such a pleasure to see at Town Hall every day for many years. One day in December a few years back I had a heart attack. Chris & Chris O'Brien were manning the ambulance that evening. It was their calmness & professionalism that I truly felt saved my life that day.

And on a lighter note, Chris used to ask for our keys and scrape off our cars then drive them to the front door with heaters blasting. And he brought us in some gross food to try from his many adventures.

Jim and Ann, you raised a great, kind and respectful man. I was glad to know him.

Diana Kirby

Diana Kirby - April 11, 2022 at 06:47 PM

VM

Jim and Ann and family,

When I heard of Chris's untimely passing my heart sank! He was one of the best, his larger than life personality and his gift of caring was an inspiration for everyone he came in contact with.

I remember when I first met Chris, we were told the bosses son was coming to work for us, "oh boy"! Chris was in high school wanted a few hours at Friendlys to give him some responsibility and pocket money. He quickly turned into one of my favorite servers, always willing to help, always had a smile on his face and a goofy antic to lighten the craziness of life back then! He was such a wonderful young man, and I was truly blessed to have known him!!

I remember I was pregnant for my oldest son, Chris was still working for us at the time, he was so excited about my baby, he wanted to feel him kick and would keep giving me cold milk or peanut butter. My sons favorite toy was a stuffed Elmo that Chris and Kerry bought for him when he was born, (that now resides in his memory box) he carried this stuffed animal of Elmo around with him always, we had to replace the eyes and reattach a leg, but still he was my sons best friend.

Chris was loved by anyone that knew him, he just had that ability to make everyone feel like they mattered no matter what!!

Rest well Chris and watch over your family!

Jim and Ann I am so very sorry for your loss!

Val Mongue

valerie mongue - April 12, 2022 at 08:44 AM

KB

Having served on the ambulance squad before and after Chris came, I can state that after was much better! Chris always had a smile on his face and a kind, welcoming comment. He was also a great hugger which I learned in 2006 after a heartfelt conversation about my Mom and his Grandfather.

Chris was a very special man - always ready to help in anyway. One winter a few years ago, a white pine fell in my driveway within an inch of our cars. We had no chainsaw at the time. I called Chris and he was here within a few minutes to clear behind the cars so we could get out. Lauren waited in the car as they were headed out for breakfast. Chris refused any cash, so I handed some to Lauren and said breakfast was on us!

Thank you Chris for your smiles, your kindness and most of all for your friendship. I will miss your face!! My condolences to Lauren and his family as well as all who loved him!! He was an easy guy to love! He left a void in our town for certain.

Kate Bailey - April 15, 2022 at 03:42 PM