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Sherman Long

1921-2010

Aug 15, 2010

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Sherman B. Long died peacefully in his sleep on July 30, 2010 in Napa at the age of 89. He was predeceased by his wife of 62 years, Miriam Oreck Long of Duluth, Minn.

He was born in Duluth in 1921 to Nelson Alexander Long and Charlotte Azine Long and graduated from Central High School. During his high school years, he was an accomplished athlete, scholar and outdoorsman. He was president of Duluth's Izaak Walton League of America, and earned the rank of Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America. As a teenager, he spent a summer in the wilderness of Manitoba with two friends, living off the land and acquiring survival skills that proved invaluable to him during his service in World War II. He enlisted in the U.S. Army at the outbreak of World War II, graduated from OCS, and saw combat during the Battle of the Bulge as a forward observer in the 417th Infantry Regiment of the 76th Division of Patton's 3rd Army. He achieved the rank of first lieutenant and was awarded two Bronze Stars, one with the Oak Leaf Cluster for heroism. At the end of the war, he was honorably discharged and settled in Duluth, where he established an interior design business with his wife, Miriam. They had three children: Jeffrey R. Long, Deborah H. Long and Martin W. Long.

After retiring to Hilton Head Island, S.C. and then subsequently enjoying five pleasant years living in Coral Gables, Fla. with his daughter, Deborah, and her family, he and Miriam moved to Napa to be close to their eldest son, Jeffrey. His apartment became a gathering place for his children and grandchildren over the years, affording him many opportunities to share his remarkable war stories and his observations concerning politics and foreign affairs.

Sherman remained an avid fly fisherman and hunter throughout his life and enjoyed a number of adventures in remote parts of Canada, the Arctic Circle and Mexico until well into his 80s. In 2000, he wrote his memoir “Lucky Long: A Memoir For My Grandchildren,” in which he vividly depicted his extraordinary experiences during World War II.

He was greatly admired by his family and friends for his remarkable courage, his deep and abiding love of nature, his adventurous spirit, and his ever-present and much-appreciated sense of humor. His ashes, and those of his wife, Miriam, will be placed in the Columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by his son, Jeffrey R. Long and partner, Sara Hansen, of Napa; his daughter, Deborah H. Long and her husband, Brian McLaughlin, of Keystone, Colo.; his son, Martin W. Long and his wife, Natalie Miller, of Lawrenceville, Ga.; his sister, Rita L. Glick; his sister-in-law, Marge Alpern; and six loving grandchildren.

No services will be held. Donations can be sent to the American Diabetes Association.

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