

Laurel, Mississippi



Hoyt Mills Long died 01 January 2008, in Laurel, MS, where his daughter, Marty, had moved him from his home of forty-plus years in Summerville, SC, as he struggled with atrial fibrillation and chronic pulmonary problems. Though he had been doing well, he suffered a massive stroke, a surprise knockout blow after many no-surprise preliminaries. A well-attended memorial service was held 02 February 2008, in Summerville with family and friends coming from as far away as Seattle.

It was merciful that he died near the daughter he was so proud of. Hoyt never remarried after losing his wife, Brenda Zapf Long, to lupus in 1974. In his mind, his greatest "claim to fame" from that time was Marty—Dr. Martha Long Ewing—a renowned poultry veterinarian, championship runner, and mother of his two grandchildren, Hank and Steven Ewing of Ellisville, MS. After his retirement from Lockheed in 1989, he religiously visited Marty through her career moves and his sister, Lucia Long Schwarz, in Bethel, ME. He also traveled widely throughout the world—including trips to Antarctica, Alaska, most of Europe, New Zealand, and the Panama Canal.

His career was serendipitous, full of connections. After Amherst, he went to US Navy OCS, finishing his tour November 1956. He then took a casting operations foreman job at the massive Bethlehem Steel facility near Buffalo, where he had worked in summer jobs while at Amherst. He and Brenda Zapf of Buffalo married in late 1956, and Marty was born in 1958. He then signed on in 1961 for another US Navy tour, when he was largely responsible for the security of a Lockheed Polaris missile transportable only by ship. He, Brenda, and Marty were stationed for several months at a US Navy base in Holy Loch, Scotland. He left the US Navy in 1964 to join Lockheed Missile & Space Company (Polaris Missile Facility Atlantic) in Charleston, SC, where he spent his whole career as an operations planner until retiring in 1989.