

Lloyd J. Long, Tonawanda mayor and assemblyman

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Lloyd J. Long, a former four-term mayor of the City of Tonawanda and state assemblyman, died Friday after a lengthy illness. He was 91.

Mr. Long was elected mayor of the City of Tonawanda in 1957.

During his tenure, he secured funds for a new City Hall, a library and a building for Delaware Hose Co., and he started Niawanda Park and the Riverwalk.

In 1965, he was elected to the Assembly, where he served five years.

Born on Grand Island, Mr. Long was a 1938 graduate of Kibler High School and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Arkansas State College.

Mr. Long entered the 8th Army Air Force in 1943 and served in England for 26 months during World War II as first sergeant of the 562nd Squadron 388th Bomber Group.

After the war, Mr. Long founded Robinson & Long Inc., a paving company, in 1959 and led the business until his retirement in 1992. He also operated a curbing company and volunteered his time repairing existing roads and helping with design and construction of city streets.

Mr. Long was an anchor in the city. A charter member of the Loyal Order of Moose, he was a member of Tonawandas Post 264, American Legion; Masonic Lodge 247; Rotary Club of the Tonawandas; and Eldredge Bicycle Club. He was past president of Delaware Hose and was an exempt firefighter.

Mr. Long was a honorary member of the Gastown Sportsmens' Club and the Niagara Hose Company, and he had served on the Salvation Army Board since 1966. He was a charter member and past president of the Erie County Traffic Board, the Tonawanda Senior Citizens and the City of Tonawanda Waterfront Committee. He also was involved in the Riviera Theater, the SPCA and the Red Cross, as a volunteer.

In 2003, he received a Distinguished Alumni award from the Tonawanda High School Alumni Association, and in 2006 he received a Lifetime Achievement award from the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Tonawanda.

He met five U.S. presidents and numerous celebrities, including Glen Miller and Jimmy Stewart.

Mr. Long is survived by his wife of 69 years, the former Janet L. Browning; and two daughters, Victoria Ann Keidel and Deborah Louise Jaeger.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday in John O. Roth Funeral Home, 25 William St., City of Tonawanda.