

Celebration of Life

DATE: Sunday, November 10, 2024
TIME: 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM
LOCATION: St. John Ambulance Peel-Dufferin Branch
ADDRESS: 1081 Meyerside Drive, Unit 6, Mississauga, ON
LUNCHEON: 12:00 PM



Long Doan
1976 -2024

**Honouring a Life of Service, Friendship,
and Unconditional Kindness.**



St. John Ambulance

Biography

Long Doan was born in South Vietnam in 1976 shortly after the Vietnam War (1955-1975) ended, a war which cost the lives of over 3 million people. Over the course of several years afterwards, many South Vietnamese faced persecution in the newly formed Socialist Republic of Vietnam which was controlled by the communist North Vietnam. During this period, Long's Mother, Chau (My) Tran, was forced to raise him alone after his father abandoned his family to exploit the political landscape for the purpose of embezzlement. Long's mother resorted to begging in order to feed young Long because of widespread post war famine. She was determined to make a better life for Long and avoid persecution. They escaped Vietnam and eventually found refuge in Canada.

The poor nutrition from his early years, and the stress of being a refugee produced many health problems for Long, some of which would continue to plague him in later life. His mother often reminisced that during those troubled times, Long was often very ill and his body didn't grow properly. This led to surgeries for his heart and skull using methods that weren't known to be completely safe at the time. Miraculously, he survived both surgeries, however, the surgery on his skull left a deep, and extensive scar which was prominent throughout his life.

Vietnamese refugees faced discrimination in many nations across the globe, even in Canada, a peaceful country known for its cultural diversity. This hardship did not deter Long who became academically gifted. He completed post-secondary education, then entered medical school in the United States to fulfill his dream of becoming a doctor. Upon graduation, he was faced with the reality that Canada imposed limits on the total number of licensed doctors, and those who were foreign trained encountered additional complex and costly barriers that would take years to overcome before they could practice. Long's only option was to practice in the US, which he was reluctant to do since it would take him away from his family.

Long returned to Canada where he eventually found St. John Ambulance, and became a volunteer in Mississauga with the Medical First Response service unit, then a First Aid Instructor, followed by a volunteer with Outreach & Education where took on the role of Deputy Unit Chief of Education.

In 2017, Long decided to continue his studies in the medical field by enrolling in the Nursing Program at Humber College. In 2021, he graduated with a BSc Nursing. Unknown to him, his academic pursuits took a significant toll on his health. The intensity of his studies and other daily activities left him with little to no time for self-care. He was unaware that the regimen of medication he was prescribed (such as for high blood pressure) were too large a dose and were causing damage to his kidneys. By the time this was discovered, his kidneys had reached the advanced state of stage 4 severe damage. Pre-existing issues with his cardiac system were also further aggravated by his studies.

Despite the circumstances of his early life and declining health, Long continued to live life as selflessly as he could. He took every miracle that extended his life and used it to help others. He was often ahead of his time when it came to new hardware and software technology, and would readily share his knowledge and expertise with family and friends. Since childhood, he enjoyed playing video games, especially on the SEGA GENESIS, and would fondly recall the times he demonstrated loyalty to the SEGA brand during the "Nintendo and SEGA video console war" which dominated the video game market in the 1980s-1990s. Later in life, Long was content with purchasing video games knowing that he would not have time to play them, but that others in the family would enjoy them on his behalf.

Unknown to many, Long held a longstanding interest with the principles of emulation (hardware or software that permits programs written for one device to run on another device), and continuously looked for ways to emulate gaming console hardware. He was able to get arcade games for gaming consoles to function on his computer which was a completely different platform, and the Nintendo Wii Remote Controller to function identically as a gun in arcade games. He had a long list of emulation success stories.

Long also had a passion for anime and watched the subtitled version of several long running anime series such as "One Piece" and "Naruto". He was known to binge watch an entire anime series in a single day if the storyline captivated him. His passion was also shared by his younger brother Khoi, and together, they shared many memorable moments together reenacting scenes and laughing throughout the process.

In his last moments, Long enjoyed the friendship of his colleagues from St. John Ambulance, but especially the company of his beloved brother, Khoi.