



# Larry Ray Meachum

SEP 11, 1938 - JUL 13, 2018



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# Larry Ray Meachum

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## Larry's remarkable life.....

Larry was born to Mary Louise and Leaton Cornelius Meachum, as the third of four children: L.C. Jr., Donald, and Carolyn.

Larry held Degrees in Religious Education and Psychology. His first job out of high school was with a cotton factory in Durham, North Carolina. Larry's passion for people and religion spanned his lifetime. He loved to sing and was an avid choir member where he met Evelyn, his wife of 61 years. Larry and Evelyn married June 15, 1957 and raised four children – Darrell, Larry, Cheryl, and Lori.

After starting his career in criminal justice in North Carolina as a Rehabilitation Counselor in the early 1960s, Larry led a noteworthy and newsworthy career within criminal justice.

Larry served several Governors from both Republican and Democratic administrations as the head of the Corrections Departments in Massachusetts, Oklahoma, and Connecticut.

While in Massachusetts in the 1970s, Larry's emergency reassignment of inmates to other institutions after putting down a prison riot led to a landmark Supreme Court case. The State lost in court all the way to the Supreme Court, where SCOTUS upheld Larry's emergency actions. Meachum v. Fano is taught in law schools today.

Larry is credited with being among the very first to implement penal boot camps in Oklahoma in 1983; a feat he later considered the biggest error of his career. Larry later determined shock incarceration programs fed into the worst instincts of human beings, harming both staff and inmates, and ultimately, was ineffective in preventing recidivism.



## Obituary

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Larry retired in 2001 from the Department of Justice in Washington DC in 2001, as Director of the Office of Justice Programs, Correction Program Office. Larry was responsible for implementing the corrections portion of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the so called Crime Act

Larry is still recognized for his moral and ethical leadership within state and federal corrections; and as the voice of corrections during the Clinton administration. Larry's legacy of evidence based practices and decision-making are still felt within the department today.

Larry and Evelyn initially retired to Kure Beach NC before moving to Palmetto to enjoy the Florida sunshine. Always active in his church and fellowship, Larry enjoyed helping all and mentoring those in need.

Larry is survived by his wife Evelyn, his children Darrell, Cheryl, Lori, and his brother LC





## Events


**Larry Ray Meachum**

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### Memorial Service

 **Saturday**, July 21, 2018

 4:00 PM ET

 **First Baptist Church of Palmetto**  
1020 4th Street West, Palmetto FL 34221



## Tribute Wall

**Larry Ray Meachum**

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EM

**Everette Martin** posted:

Just learning of the Home going of Larry. He was a wonderful friend for many years.

September 30 at 11:31 AM

JH

**Janice Hedman** posted:

It was an honor and privilege to know this godly man who was a great friend of ours as well as a dedicated husband and loving father. I would have loved to have seen you get your, "Well done". You will be sorely missed!

July 17 at 5:07 AM

EM

**Evelyn Meachum** July 23 at 12:31 PM

Thank you for your kind words. He truly was a great person in all phases of his life. I will miss him immensely!

SH

**Steve Hargett** July 18 at 7:41 PM

My sincere condolences to the Meachum family. Larry was a great leader and teacher. I learned more from him than any other Director of Corrections I ever served under. I never will forget my interview with Larry in 1985 for the D/W job at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary, it lasted for four and half hours. It was a privilege to have the opportunity to get to know what a great man he really was., may he Rest In Peace. Steve Hargett-July 18

DM

**David Marcial** posted:

Condolences to Evelyn and the Meachum family. Larry was a great teacher, mentor and friend. I first met Larry when I was a lieutenant in the investigations unit. When He left the Conn DOC, I was privileged to serve as a regional director. I still carry with me his is life lessons and words of wisdom shared during various transitional trainings. Every time we over-tip a breakfast waitress or patronize a street musician, we smile and think of Larry. The world lost an incredible man; may he rest in peace.

July 16 at 8:16 AM

RR

**Raymond Rivera** July 17 at 7:02 AM

Thank you for your guidance and the opportunities you gave me. Rest In Peace.

LA

**Leo Arnone** July 17 at 3:45 AM

I could not have said it better Dave. Larry Rest In Peace



## Tribute Wall

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BR

**Bob Ronne** posted:

My sincere condolences to the Meachum family. He will forever be in my thoughts and prayers. May he rest in peace. Bob Ronne

July 16 at 8:01 AM

WJ

**William Jackson** posted:

My old Commissioner...RIP Larry 🙏🙏

July 16 at 7:40 AM

BC

**Bob Chapman** posted:

I had the pleasure of meeting Commissioner Meachum at my C/O graduation. He pinned my badge on. He fought hard in changing the direction of DOC. May he rest in peace.

July 16 at 7:30 AM

KS

**Kathi Sappington** posted:

I only had the pleasure of working with Mr. Meachum a year or so before he left the agency in 1987. I learned he was a tough director and fought for the agency, its employees, and the offenders. I learned from staff who had been with the agency longer than me that he ushered in much needed change and that he made a difference. On a personal note, he was kind to me and was instrumental in assisting with the career I have now. I will forever be grateful. May Mr. Meachum rest in peace. I pray for comfort and strength for his family and friends.

July 16 at 5:48 AM

CH

**Cheryl** July 16 at 5:02 PM

I love you, Dad. You truly were a wonderful man and beautiful person. We will miss you. So happy you finally made it to the place you had been waiting for. I hope it measures up to far more than you were even anticipating.

MB

**Marvin Blue** July 16 at 1:20 PM

Condolences. He was a good man if you got to know him



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Larry by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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