

# Two Veterans, One Dying Wish

## Tualatin Man Reunites with Father after 35 years

Almost 35 years ago, a boy said goodbye to his father for the last time. It was 1981, and he was almost 8 years old. Neither had any idea that it would be the last time they would see each other for over three decades.

Lenard Loggins' parents divorced when he was just a young boy. Lenard moved several times over the years, and his father went back home to Arkansas after serving in the Air Force. During that time, the internet was almost unheard of. Lenard's father, Lenard Terry, drove to several surrounding states in search of his son. He never gave up hope that he would find him.

Lenard moved to Charleston, SC in 2003 where he met his wife, Meme. He shared with her that he barely remembered his father, and assumed he passed away since he wasn't able to find him. Meme began a tireless search for a man she knew nothing about. With just a name, she searched for almost 14 years to find her husband's father. In 2007, Meme joined the Army, and the family relocated several times. Just weeks ago, she found him. They also learned Lenard had twin half-sisters and a half-brother.

Meme started a GoFundMe campaign with the hopes of flying Lenard Terry to Portland to see his son and meet the teenage grandchildren

he never knew of. She shared her story though Facebook with thousands of people across the nation. The TD Jakes show was listening.

Just last week, the Oprah Winfrey Network flew the family out to Los Angeles, CA to share their story on the TD Jakes Show. During the taping, the family was surprised with their dream come true. At a lively 79 years old, Lenard Terry strolled onto the stage, and embraced his son for the first time since he was a little boy. Meme stood by his side with tears in her eyes as she watched her children meet their grandfather for the first time, and held her husband's hand as he took in the first moments of seeing his father. The talk show gifted them with a night out in Hollywood at a five star restaurant on Sunset Boulevard. The following morning, both father and son said goodbye once more.

Since returning last weekend, their story has aired on several news stations around the nation, and the GoFundMe campaign has been shared across the globe. The talk show will air during the November sweeps, but the story is far from over. Meme has raised enough money to fly Lenard Terry to Portland for Thanksgiving. She remains hopeful that they can raise enough to also bring the siblings out for a Thanksgiving of a lifetime.



Lenard and Meme Loggins.



Dinner in Hollywood the night of the show. (Left to Right) Lenard Terry, Michaela Loggins, Meme Loggins, Lenard Loggins, and Dominique Loggins.

Father and son will be eating their first Thanksgiving dinner together in over three decades right here in Tualatin; and this year, there will be three generations sitting at the table.

"It's more than mind boggling, it's heart boggling." - Lenard Terry

**Publisher's Note:**  
If you would like to donate to the Loggins campaign: [gofundme.com/2t2fhe4](https://www.gofundme.com/2t2fhe4).



On the set of the *TD Jakes* show about an hour before filming. "We were all so nervous, they wanted us to see the set without an audience so the kids could relax before having to answer questions on national television."