



Willie Pong

NOV 13, 1925 - DEC 4, 2024



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Willie Pong

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Lived a long and happy life from November 13, 1925 and born in Lorain, Ohio to Chinese immigrants from Southwest of Guangzhou China. He passed away 99 years later from natural causes on December 4, 2024 at his retirement villa in Oceanside CA.

Willie was a proud World War II Navy Veteran, who did his tour of duty in the South Pacific theater, aboard the U.S.S. Sculptor. This ship carried dangerous hi-octane fuel and took in many US Marines for rest and recovery.

The final highlight was receiving the Congressional Gold medal in 2020 for being a Chinese-American Navy War Veteran. We must give much credit and great honor to his military service and our freedom today.

Willie was happily married for 61 years until 2014 to his love of his life, Ruby. They will both be buried eternally together at Greenwood Memorial Park in San Diego CA, where Willie's parents (Mar Sue Pong and Hom Shee Pong) are also resting.

A Celebration of Life ceremony with full military honors will be held in March/April 2025.

Willie had two sons, Russ and George M. (Mickey) Pong. He also had 4 granddaughters (Erin, Andrea, Sydney, Colby), 2 great granddaughters (Camilla, Alaia) plus another granddaughter expected in January 2025.

We will greatly miss his generosity and contagious smile shared with everyone he touched and loved!

While many will feel emptiness and the loss of his presence, many will find comfort that he rests in a better place.

May Willie Pong's spirit continue to be present in every day of your existence and in every memory you express.

They say that one is forgotten or dies when you allow the memories to fade or go unspoken. Allow yourself time to grieve as this is part of the healing process but



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never forget that it lies within oneself to live and continue the legacy.

May Willie Pong's soul rest in peace and continue to watch over you and grant you strength.



Memorial Service with Military Honors

 **Friday**, March 7, 2025

 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM PT

 **Garden Chapel at Greenwood**
4300 Imperial Ave., San Diego CA 92113





Tribute Wall

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Irene Chow lit a candle in honor of Willie.

I loved Willie Pong as my own father. Death of anyone — or anything — you have loved is always hard to endure, however the love you feel will always perpetuate good memories. And these memories that I have of Willie will last my lifetime and even Michael's lifetime and whomever we share these memories with for that matter. I can recall a time when I took Willie to the VA Hospital in La Jolla to help him sign up for his VA benefits in California. I also recall a time I took him to one of his regular VA medical appointments in Oceanside. Despite his arthritis in his knees and hands, the painful bone spurs in his neck, and his hearing loss, he would always say he never felt better with his big smile that always lit up his entire face, whenever the doctor asked how he was feeling. Her reply really resonated with me even to this day, when she said to me: "They don't make 'em like him anymore. I love him." And that was my sentiment Exactly! I'm sure we all carry very fond memories of Willie Pong — either our own or together as family or friends. He was my father-in-law and my guidance counselor. We shared many of our stories and regrets. He was my dinner date and my tacos and margaritas buddy. He always enjoyed the visits to Cougar Winery in Temecula — even though he didn't really drink — and would always ask when I was picking up my wines. He just loved the beautiful drive there and the views. Most of all, he was an optimist. He would always say to me: "why not?" And, I still hear him loud and clear — even to this day.



March 6 at 2:50 PM



Irene And Michael Chow And Thy Doan sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Pong family.

March 4 at 7:40 PM



The Young Family sent a Blue Caribbean Bouquet to the Pong family.

March 2 at 12:00 PM



Ardy Lo shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

A poignant farewell to his younger sister (though he would enjoy another 2 years!)

February 28 at 7:58 PM





Tribute Wall

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Nicole Louie shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Rest in peace Uncle Willie ❤️

January 20 at 3:34 AM



Roxanne posted:

I still have a cross necklace that Willie made and gave to employees (or anyone!) at the senior living community. I keep it in my car...thanks Willie!

January 20 at 3:34 AM



Ardy Lo shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 28 at 7:58 PM





Nicole Louie shared 4 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 24 at 9:49 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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