



Raymond Wong

September 5, 1948 - August 22, 2022

Raymond Wong of Detroit, MI, passed away suddenly on Monday, August 22nd two weeks before his 74th birthday. Born on September 5, 1948 with the given name Wong Tung-Choi in Hong Kong to his late father Wong Cheuk Fai and (survived by his) mother Tsui Ming Chu, Raymond will be sadly missed by his children Crystal (Adam) and Vincent (Mary); his grandchildren Ephraim, Harmony, and Zane; and his beloved life companion Eileen Bobrycki. Proud eldest brother of eight younger brothers the late Joseph (Selina), Tung Keung (Winnie), Lawrence (Christina), Tung Wai (the late Doris), Daniel (Myra), Terry (Kit), Harry (Wan Joao and the late Grace), and Tony (Lana), Raymond is also survived by many nephews, nieces, and their children.

After emigrating to Windsor ON in 1970 with his soon-to-be first wife Angelina to major in business at the University of Windsor (from which he received the Alumni Award of Merit in 1986-87), Raymond quickly found his life-calling: to bring the true taste of elevated Chinese cuisine to people who were only familiar with Americanized Chinese food. He co-founded the Yummy House before opening Wong's Eatery in the late 1970s which would garner him a reputation that drew customers from the US. Considered "the grandfather of Chinese cuisine" to many friends and fans in the area, Raymond experimented with several other restaurant concepts before moving to Detroit in the 1990s with his second wife, Jolyn Stoico, and continued to delight patrons with his passion for food throughout his long career.

While Raymond was always known for his high energy, he struggled with

complex health issues in recent years that took all of his strength to overcome. His family will be forever grateful to the massive medical team that cared for him over many health scares that would eventually lead to three-times-a-week kidney dialysis appointments at DaVita Dialysis. There, Raymond would spend many hours surrounded by loving people who helped him through the difficult process and listened to his stories.

It would take a lengthy book to highlight Raymond's many adventures in life and to do justice to the many restaurants he operated, the countless lives he touched, and his diverse entrepreneurial undertakings throughout his life. He had a love of food unparalleled by most and also enjoyed the many elements of the hospitality and entertainment industry. Most of all, he had a love for social connection, showing people a good time, and striking up a conversation with anyone around.

Raymond was given a loving send-off in an intimate cremation ceremony on Friday, August 26th witnessed by Eileen, Crystal, and Vincent and arranged by the kind team at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Westland led by the wonderful Gary Deak. In tribute to his life philosophy, Raymond's family is choosing to hold a Celebration of Life instead of a traditional solemn memorial service. If you were a friend of Raymond's and would be interested in joining this celebration on Thursday, September 1st in the West Bloomfield area, please send his daughter Crystal Wong Kruger a direct message for more details.

Finally, many have been asking about charitable donations in his memory at this time. In lieu of flowers, his family suggests donations be made to the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (<https://nkfm.org/>) "in memory of Raymond Wong". Messages about your fond memories of Raymond are also much appreciated.

Tribute Wall



“ Raymond Wong

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ Raymond was a Wonderful Creative person since our early days @ U of Winsor which most Rightfully honored him. My deepest Condolences 2 Ramonds Family, including His Wonderful, Faithful partner, Eileen. God Bless, Keep & so Embrace him always & Forever.

Tom Olechowski

Thomas J. > Olechowski - January 11, 2023 at 05:42 PM



“ Wong's Eatery was my first taste of Chinese food other than the ubiquitous Cantonese style many of us were familiar with growing up in the 60's and 70's. I would cross the border from Detroit regularly to delight in Mr. Wong's exceptional cuisine and charm. Those spring rolls! Once there with my food critic sister, we ordered off the menu, and it was a sublime experience. My condolences to his family, and to those who knew him best.

William Rayburn
Detroit, MI

Bill Rayburn - September 05, 2022 at 01:25 PM



My experience as well.

Thomas J. > Olechowski - January 11, 2023 at 05:43 PM

BW

“ *Rest in peace and smile that impish smile.*

Bob Warsham - September 05, 2022 at 01:03 AM

TO

Amen

Thomas J. > Olechowski - January 11, 2023 at 05:44 PM

BB

“ *Raymond radiated warmth and charm to everyone he met. He was an innovator as a chef and restaurateur, delighting Detroiters who — weary of their local Chinese eateries, mired in 1950s Chop Suey recipes— found his Windsor restaurant a welcome respite. We were delighted by Raymond’s hospitality anew when he reappeared years later as the host at Shangri-La in West Bloomfield.*

We are saddened by his passing but grateful for his contributions to Asian cuisine here and for his knowledge, wit, and charm.

Bill Becker - September 04, 2022 at 01:03 PM

TO

For Sure

Thomas J. > Olechowski - January 11, 2023 at 05:46 PM

T.

“ *1 file added to the album Family*



T.W. - September 01, 2022 at 11:23 AM

TW

“ My beloved eldest brother Raymond is the trailblazer of our family.

Seven of his younger brothers came to Canada following his footsteps. He enabled and empowered us to go on our life journey and excel in many different ways. He said he is proud of his brothers and we are proud of him too.

The following is his favorite Chinese Poem. 天生我材必有用 represents him.

將進酒 李白(唐朝)

君不見，黃河之水天上來，奔流到海不復回！
君不見，高堂明鏡悲白髮，朝如青絲暮成雪。
人生得意須盡歡，莫使金樽空對月。
天生我材必有用，千金散盡還復來。
烹羊宰牛且為樂，會須一飲三百杯。
岑夫子，丹丘生，將進酒，杯莫停。
與君歌一曲，請君為我傾耳聽。
鐘鼓饌玉不足貴，但願長醉不願醒。
古來聖賢皆寂寞，唯有飲者留其名。
陳王昔時宴平樂，斗酒十千恣歡謔。
主人何為言少錢，徑須沽取對君酌。
五花馬，千金裘，呼兒將出換美酒，與爾同銷萬古愁。

Love as In Respect as In

愛如在 敬如在

Tung Wai

五弟 棟偉

Tung Wai Wong - September 01, 2022 at 01:02 AM

TW

“ 2 files added to the album Family



Tung Wai Wong - September 01, 2022 at 12:10 AM

Tony
Wong

“ Dear Big Brother Raymond,

As the eldest brother in the Wong family, you had tremendous responsibility in helping your younger brothers (8 of us). When a few of us immigrated to Canada, you helped us settle down. We are successful in many ways now because of you. You had helped us in every aspect of our lives in Canada such as employment, housing, and schooling. I even met my wife Lana at your restaurant and had our wedding party there. Thank you for everything.



I still remember the first day when I arrived in Windsor and you told me I would be working as a manager. I had no idea what a “manager” truly meant until I worked there (bus boy, bar tending, dish washing etc.). In any event, the time spent at Wong’s were greatest moments of my life. You had lots of great qualities that to this day I am still trying to get better at e.g., your inter-personal skill was second to none. I have not met another person that can be so smooth in dealing with others. Once again thank you.

Your youngest brother Tony.

Tony Wong - August 31, 2022 at 10:42 PM

TW

“棟材是個好孝順父母的兒子,也很照顧他的8個弟弟,尤其是往加拿大讀書或發展的弟弟們。他的成就是有目共睹的。

淨空法師有一句說話 - "總有一天我們是要離開,要到別的地方去。哪裡跟他有緣,他就到哪裡去,離開的時候沒有留戀,沒有牽掛,走到極樂世界,親近阿彌陀佛"。

媽媽

黃崔明珠

Tung Wai Wong - August 31, 2022 at 10:29 PM

TW

“ Dear Raymond,

The first time we met was in Hong Kong in around 1992. You treated us a nice meal in Tuen Mun and we rode horses and played golf afterwards. We were all amazed at your golf skill as you could hit the ball so far. When my sister travelled passed Windsor from Taiwan, you drove her around and went shopping with her. My sister was so happy and impressed with knowledge and generosity. Everyone loved listening to you sharing memories in the family gatherings. In 2013 in Vancouver, I could see how happy you were as a grandpa when Crystal brought along the kids with her. We were all happy for you. Everyone is looking forward to the next family gathering and it is sad that you and Joseph will not be with us.

You will be deeply missed. We were glad to see you had Eileen looking after you in all these years.

Selina (Sister-in Law)

Tung Wai Wong - August 31, 2022 at 10:07 PM

TW

“ *Tung Wai Wong lit a candle in memory of Raymond Wong*



Tung Wai Wong - August 31, 2022 at 10:04 PM