

*In Loving Memory Of*



*James L. Yee*

*December 8, 1921 ~ June 24, 2012*

## *The Life of James L. Yee*

*Born December 1921 in Toysan County, Guangdong Province, China and passed away on June 24, 2012. Jimmy immigrated to the United States arriving in Seattle in 1937. He moved to Cincinnati, Ohio until enlisting in the U.S. Army during World War II. He attained the rank of Sergeant and was a decorated veteran while serving in the European Theatre Operations under General George Patton. After being honorably discharged, he returned to Seattle and married his wife Helen in 1947. He is survived by his wife Helen, his three children, son John Yee and daughters Carolyn Yee and Linda Yee Hayashi and son-in-law Spencer Hayashi. He is also survived by his elder sister, Mrs. Chui Kim Tham, brother Henry Yee and cousins Suey Yee and Mei Louie of Seattle in addition to many close cousins, nieces and nephews from Canada, Ohio, Hawaii, New York, California and Hong Kong.*

*In 1947, Jimmy began his lifelong career in the restaurant business. With his father, he started the Victory Café in Seattle's Chinatown in 1947.*

*Jimmy's family moved to Tacoma in 1950 where he opened the Golden Dragon Cafe in South Tacoma, in partnership with his good friend Takayoshi Takato. In 1952 he was joined in partnership at the Cafe with his sister Nancy and brother-in-law George Fong. In 1971, he opened Jimmie Yee's Restaurant in Lakewood, Washington. The restaurant was a lively gathering place for many old and new friends and often featured performer Jerry Sun and his Las Vegas show revue. During the 1980s, he joined the Pederson Fryer Farms selling food products to many Asian restaurants in the Puget Sound region until he reached retirement.*

*Jimmy was very involved in several Chinese fraternal organizations, including the Yee Family Association, the Hop Sing Tong Association and the Soo Yuen Benevolent Association. Despite his very busy restaurant career, he believed strongly in these organizations and played an active role, including serving as Vice President of the Yee Family Association. He made many generous donations to these organizations and contributed to the construction of the Hop Sing Tong building in Seattle. When he had time, Jimmy often enjoyed attending the annual Yee Family summer picnic in Seattle.*

*Jimmy was deeply devoted to his family and established many lasting friendships throughout his life. He enjoyed good food, travel and was an accomplished chef and quick to share his restaurant skills with family members and employees, mentoring many of them so that they could start their own restaurants. He was extremely proud of his Chinese heritage and traditions but also very proud to be an American and will be greatly missed by his loving family.*