

In Loving Memory



Linda Marie Wah
May 13, 1959-October 30, 2008

Linda Wah Memorial Scholarship

About Linda

Thank you for your interest in the Linda Wah Scholarship. We believe it will be helpful and important for you to know more about Linda Marie Wah who was a very special person. During her far too short lifetime, Linda used all of her energy to develop and use her talents. She was a friend to many, an excellent student, a devoted daughter, sister and aunt and a highly respected attorney and corporate executive. She devoted a substantial amount of her time, talent and money to honor her Chinese heritage.

Linda was born May 13 1959 in Portland Oregon to the late Dr. Edward Eng Wah and Murial Joan Wah. She graduated from Parkrose High School as Valedictorian with a straight A average. She received a B.A. degree from the University of Oregon and a J.D. law degree from Lewis and Clark Law School in 1991. Based on her law school achievements, she was an Editor of the Law Review, a scholarly publication.

She started her professional career in the Human Resources department at NERCO, finished law school and was hired as an associate at Stoel Rives, Oregon's largest law firm. She was then recruited to work at PacifiCorp and Iberdrola Resources, working in the field of human resources. Her ability, hard work and creative problem solving abilities earned her a position as Vice President, Human Resources.

Persons of Chinese descent faced a difficult road in the United States during the 19th and 20th centuries. The United States Congress passed a Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, which was not repealed until well into the 20th century.

Despite the challenges, Linda's ancestors founded the Kam Wah Chung Company in John Day, Oregon in the 1860's. They constructed a trading post on the Dalles Military road in 1866-67. This served as a doctor's office, pharmacy, general store, Chinese Temple and home. Many received important medical care here including Chinese gold mine workers and pioneers including John Day Through the efforts and financial support of many people, including Linda, this site has been preserved and restored as a state heritage site open to the public.

Linda also gave her energy and financial support to the Northwest China Council and the Chinese Classical Garden Society. Her efforts helped lead to the creation of the beautiful Chinese Garden in Northwest Portland.

Linda's life provides a model and an inspiring example of how a person can use education to develop your abilities and then use your time, energy and talents to forge a satisfying and enjoyable career while honoring and enjoying, family, friends and the special attributes of your ethnic background. To Linda's family, friends and colleagues, she was a living example of how to make a difference.