HENRY WONG, CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

本年度傑出人士:黃松益醫生



When he's not busy saving lives, he's involved in saving futures.

That's Dr. Henry Y.T. Wong, the Chinese Cultural Society of Stockton's Citizen of the Year 2010. His life of giving apart from his service as a physician goes well beyond what might be expected from someone in

the medical profession.

Born in Hoyping, Guandong, China, Dr. Wong immigrated alone to Canada at the age of 13 to join his paternal grandfather on the east coast. He worked alongside his grandfather in a Montreal hand laundrywashing clothes with bar soap on a corrugated washboard, wringing out the water by hand and hanging the garments to line dry. Flatirons were heated on a coal stove for ironing clothes. Laundry had to be done no matter what the weather was like, and the cold Montreal winters made it a grueling task. But it made him strong and determined to study and prepare for a better future for himself.

Dr. Wong studied Engineering Physics with an Aerospace option at the University of Toronto, which bestowed him its Jones Award for outstanding academic achievement. He earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in aerospace engineering there and then became a doctoral candidate in hypersonic aerodynamics at Princeton University. He also squeezed in time to teach college physics, atomic physics, advanced calculus, x-ray physics and spent five years with the De Havilland Aircraft of Canada doing research and aircraft development and design.

But the field of medicine beckoned. The youth enrolled at McMaster University Medical School in the province of Ontario, Canada. After earning his MD, the newly minted Dr. Wong served an internship and residency in radiation medicine at Los Angeles County-University of Souther California Medical Center. He also trained under clinical fellowships from the National Institutes of Health (children's cancer) and the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group, eventually becoming the Chief Resident at LAC-USC.

In 1977, he was recruited to Stockton to become a full-time Radiation Oncologist. Eventually, he was named Chief of Radiation Oncology at St. Joseph's Medical Center and is now the Medical Director of the Regional Cancer Center there. He serves on several hospital committees at the Center. He was a membership committee member of the San Joaquin Medical Society as well as a former board member of the American Cancer Society.

Throughout this period and in the early part of his career, Dr. Wong and his wife, Sylvia, raised three sons, making sure they had enriching educational experiences throughout their grade school and high school years. Each eventually graduated from prestigious Georgetown, Cal Berkeley and Stanford.

At the same time, he volunteered with programs that sponsor community health fairs, such as Su Salud, bringing medical attention, especially performing free cancer screening (skin, breast, prostate) to the uninsured and medically underserved populations of Stockton. Dr. Wong also makes presentations to community groups on cancer-related topics.

As recipients of regular and substantial financial donations from Dr. Wong and his wife, Sylvia, the Jene Wah Senior Service Agency is well acquainted with his generosity. But he not only opens his pocketbook to support the agency, he volunteers his precious time and considerable talent as a calligrapher to events where his skills help raise funds for its programs.

Local students have been recipients of his philanthropy as well. He has financed an annual scholarship to a high school senior as well as two awards to students at the Chinese Benevolent Association Chinese language school. But this is only a small part of what he has done for education. What he calls his "repayment of debts to society" include:

- A major donation to Tsinghua University, Beijing for which they named a five-story building in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences the "Henry Wong Building."
- Henry & Sylvia Wong Scholarship Endowment at Tsinghau University that annually finances 17 scholarships.
- Henry & Sylvia Wong Endowment that provides an annual scholarship for a Medical student at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
- Henry & Sylvia Wong Endowment that provides annual income to four scholarships for nursing students at San Joaquin Delta College.
- Wong Endowment to finance an annual Henry & Sylvia Wong Forum in Medicine at McMaster University.

- Henry & Sylvia Wong Endowment at St. Joseph's Foundation to establish an annual continuing education symposium for nurses run by Delta College, St. Joseph's Medical Center, and Central Valley Nursing Leaders Association.
- A major gift to St. Joseph's Medical Center, for which the Center in 2005 named its new Linear Accelerator Room after Sylvia Wong.

Henry Wong, a "paper son" who entered Canada with falsified papers but who received "amnesty" under that country's official forgiveness program, is now an American citizen. His achievements and his philanthropy are most remarkable for their breadth and depth. We are fortunate to be able to count his proud father of three and grandfather of Koji one of ours in this nation and this community.

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Chinese New Year Celebration Festival and Parade March 6, 2010

in Downtown Stockton: Sutter-San Joaquin Streets/ Main Street-Hunter Square

Parade begins at 10 a.m. Festival immediately follows

www.stocktonchinese.org/cnyc.php

The Year of the Tiger

Presented by CNYC of Stockton